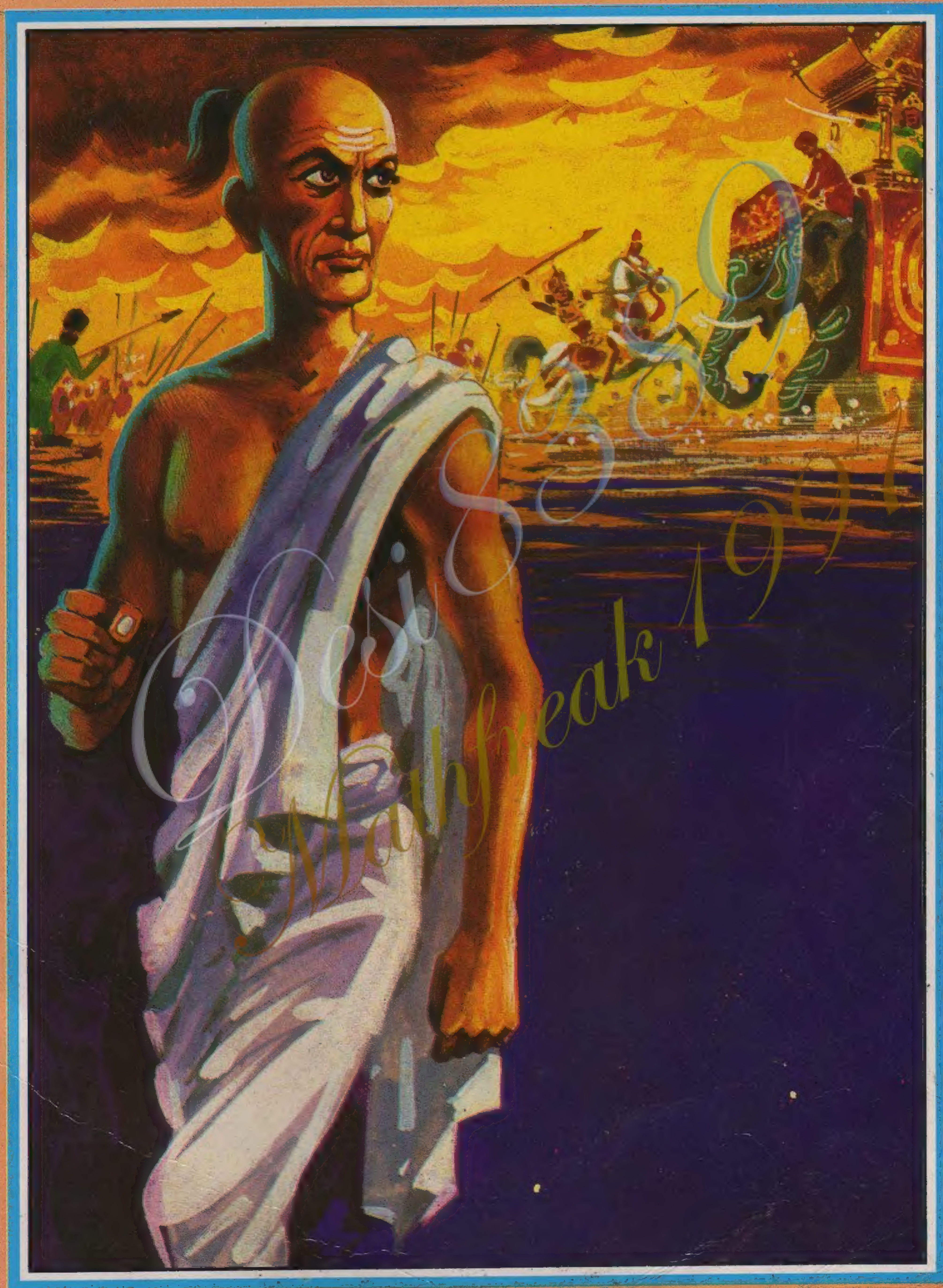




Chamakya

Vol. 508 Rs. 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



Chanakya

Chanakya also known as Kautilya, the hero of this story is the author of the well-known Sanskrit classic *Arthashastra*.

Chanakya helped Chandragupta, the founder of the Mauryan dynasty, in gaining the throne of the Nandas. According to many scholars, Chandragupta's success as a king can be ascribed to Chanakya's advice and guidance.

According to Chanakya, the king at the time of coronation had to take an oath of service to the people. If the king misbehaved, his people had the right to remove and replace him.

Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is a book on public administration. It discusses the duties as well as the rights of kings, ministers and other officers. It lays down the details on the various affairs of the state, of trade and commerce, of law, of war and peace, of diplomacy, of marriage and divorce, and of military strategy. *Arthashastra* still remains an excellent textbook of political diplomacy.

The story retold here is inspired by the classic Sanskrit play *Mudra Rakshasam* (The signet ring) written in the 9th Century A.D. by Vishakhadatta of Pataliputra which is believed to be the city of Patna today.



Script: Yagya Sharma

Artwork: Ram Waeerker

Editor : Anant Pai

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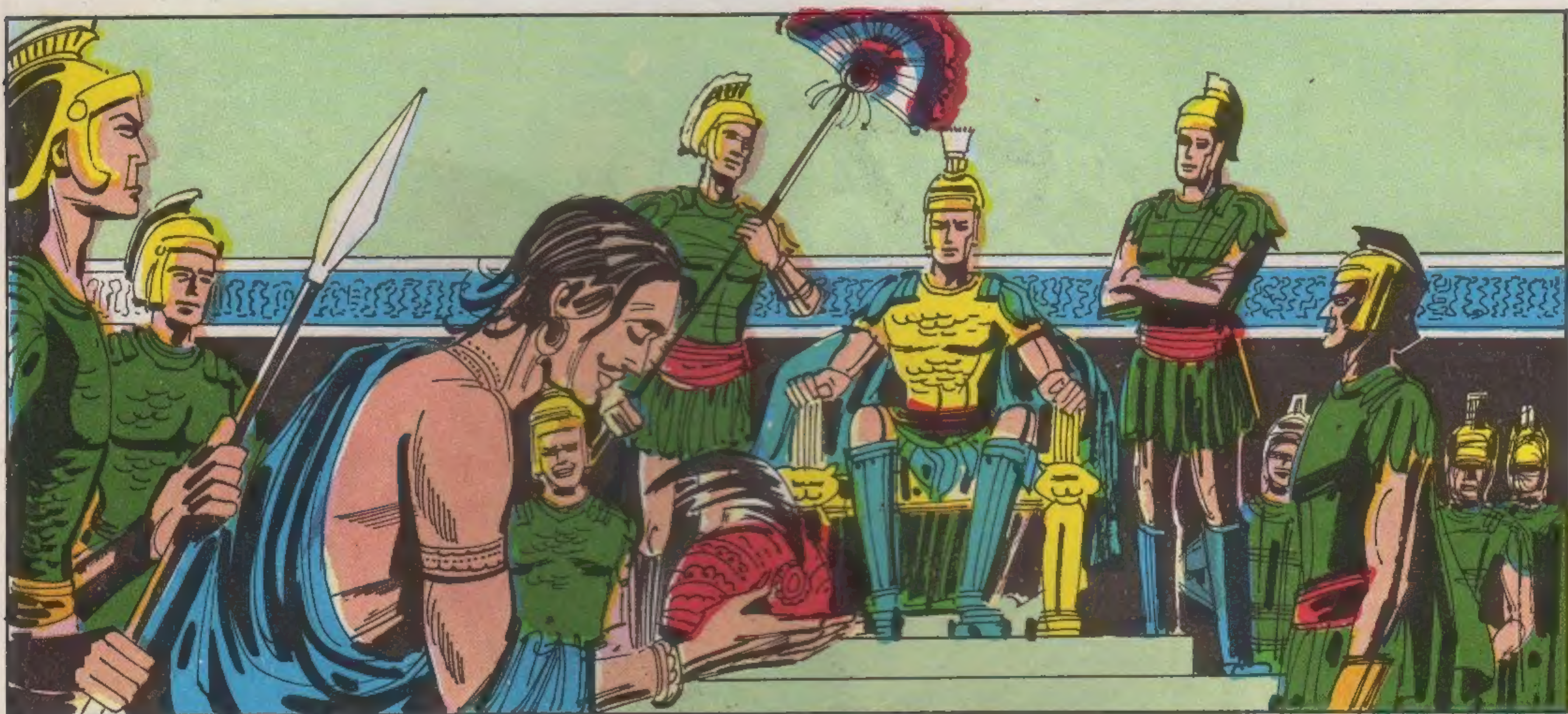
CHANDNI KHYA

ABOUT 2,500 YEARS AGO
ALEXANDER THE GREAT
INVADED INDIA.



• EDITOR - ANANT PAI • RETOLD BY - YAGYA SHARMA • ARTWORK - RAM WAEERKAR

ALEXANDER DEFEATED MANY SMALL
DISUNITED INDIAN KINGDOMS.



A BRAHMAN TEACHER NAMED CHANAKYA
WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS PUPILS.



WHY HAVE
THE OTHERS
NOT COME?

THEY ARE
AFRAID OF
THE ENEMY
SOLDIERS,
SIR.

INDIA MUST BE UNITED
TO GET RID OF THE FOREIGN
AGGRESSOR. I
SHALL WORK
TOWARDS
BUILDING A
STRONG
EMPIRE.



A FEW DAYS LATER, SHAKTAR, A MINISTER OF MAGADHA, THEN THE LARGEST KINGDOM OF INDIA, WAS STARTLED AS HE PASSED CHANAKYA'S ASHRAM.



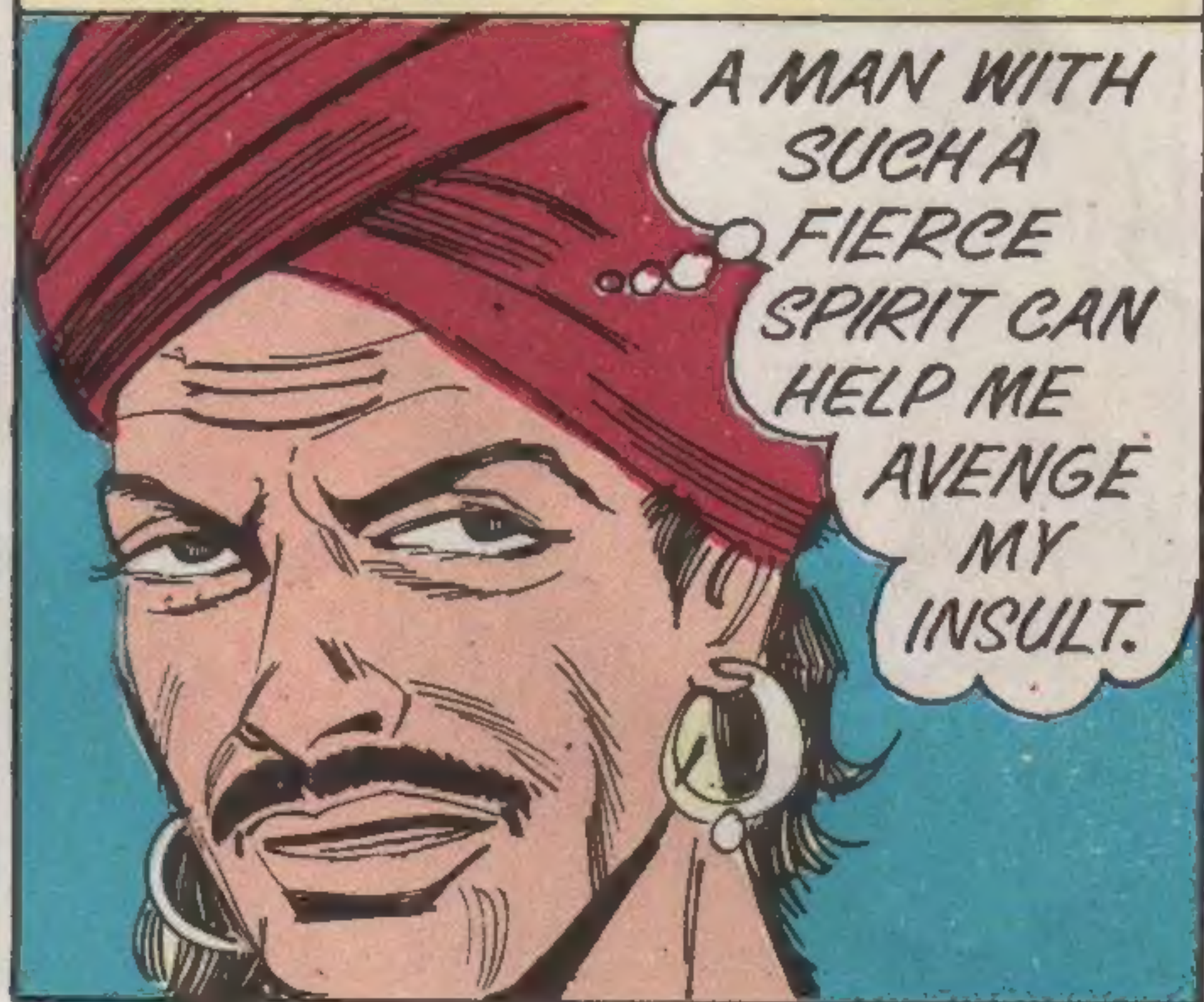
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SIR?

THIS STUPID GRASS HURTS MY FEET. I AM GOING TO DESTROY IT.



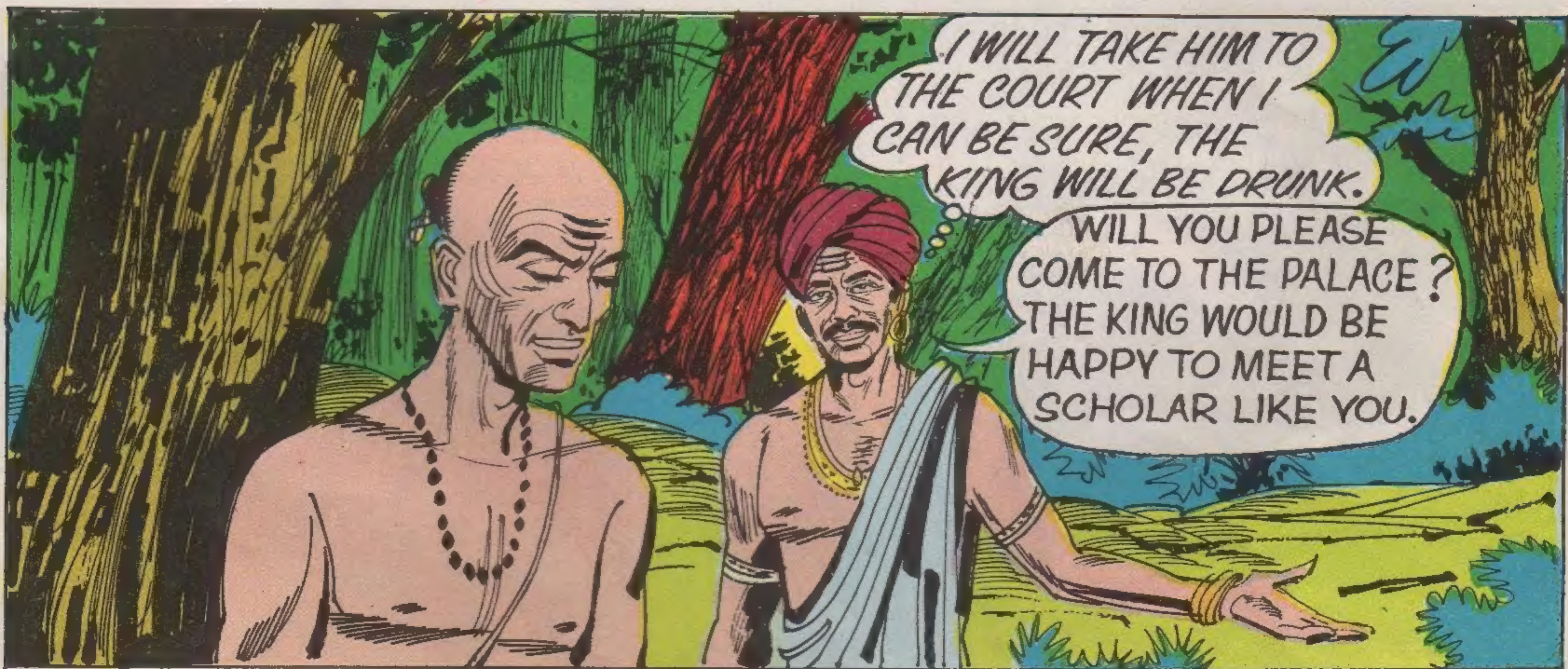
SHAKTAR HAD RECENTLY BEEN INSULTED BY HIS KING, DHANANANDA OF MAGADHA.

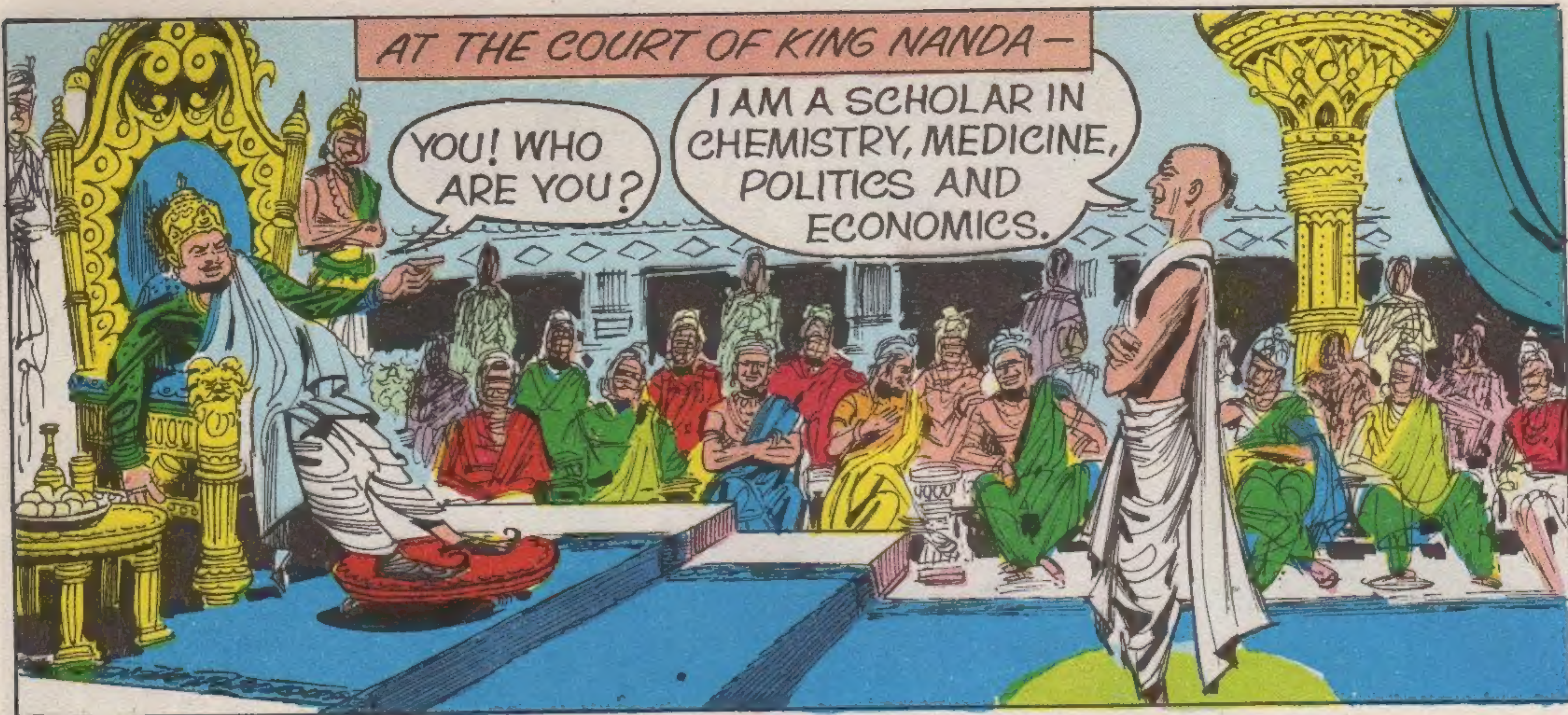
A MAN WITH SUCH A FIERCE SPIRIT CAN HELP ME AVENGE MY INSULT.

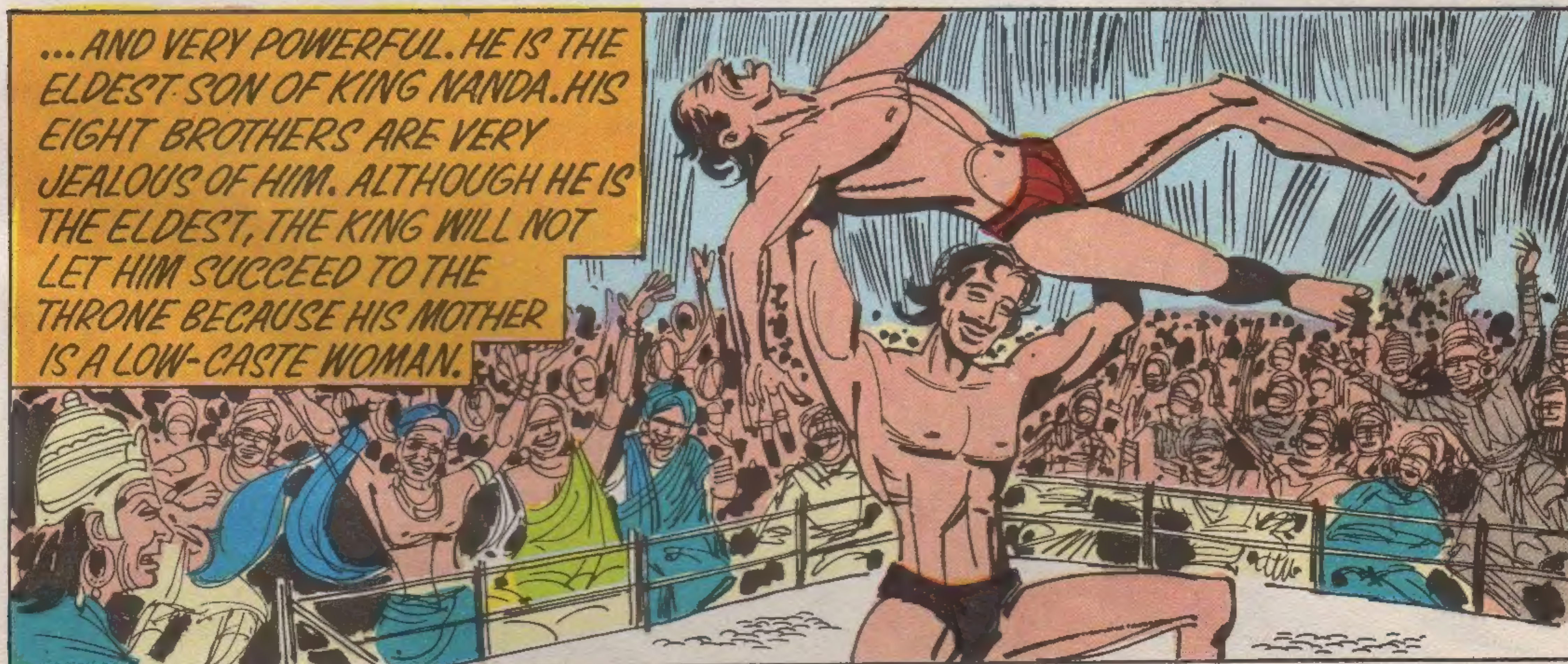
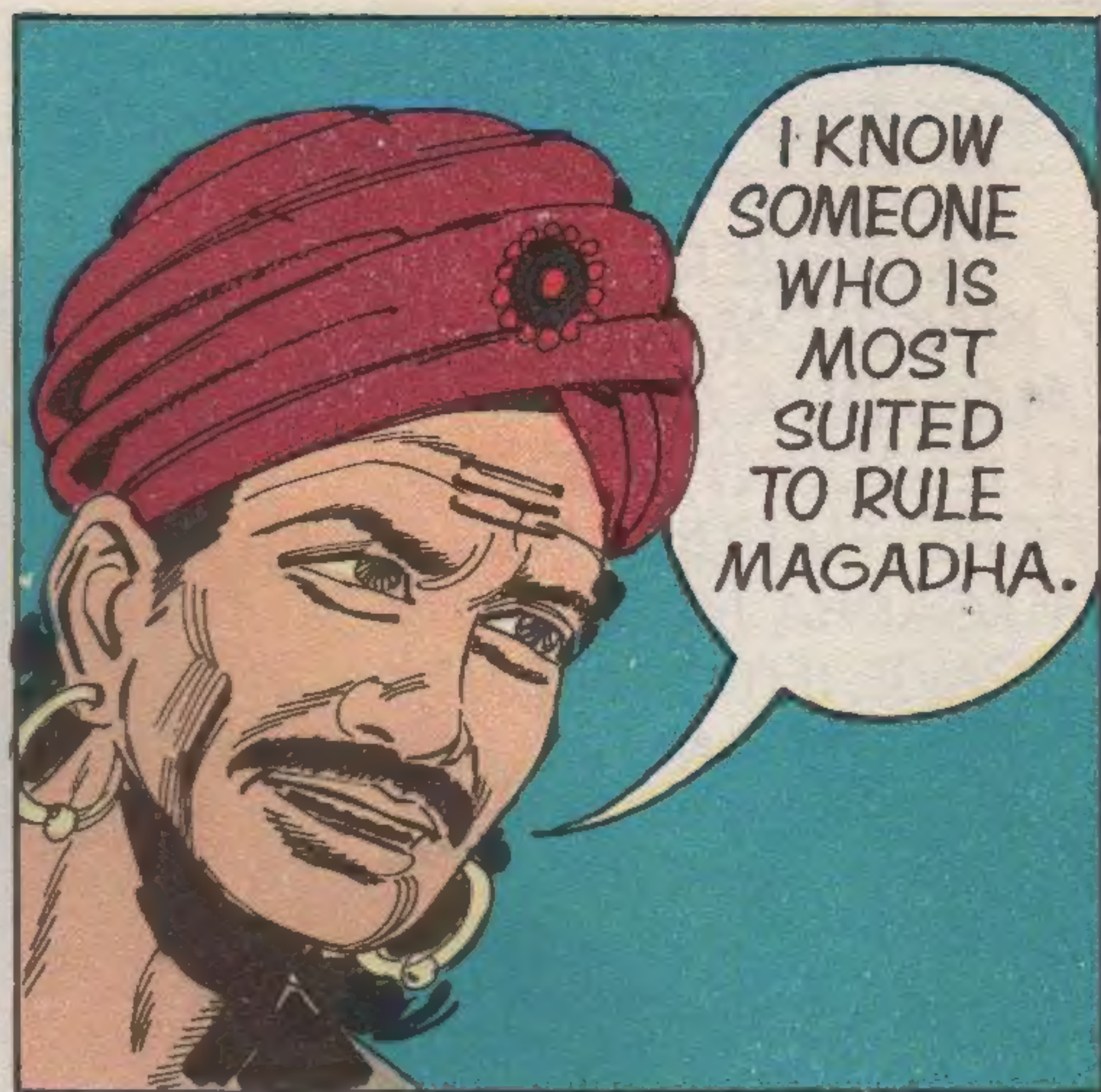
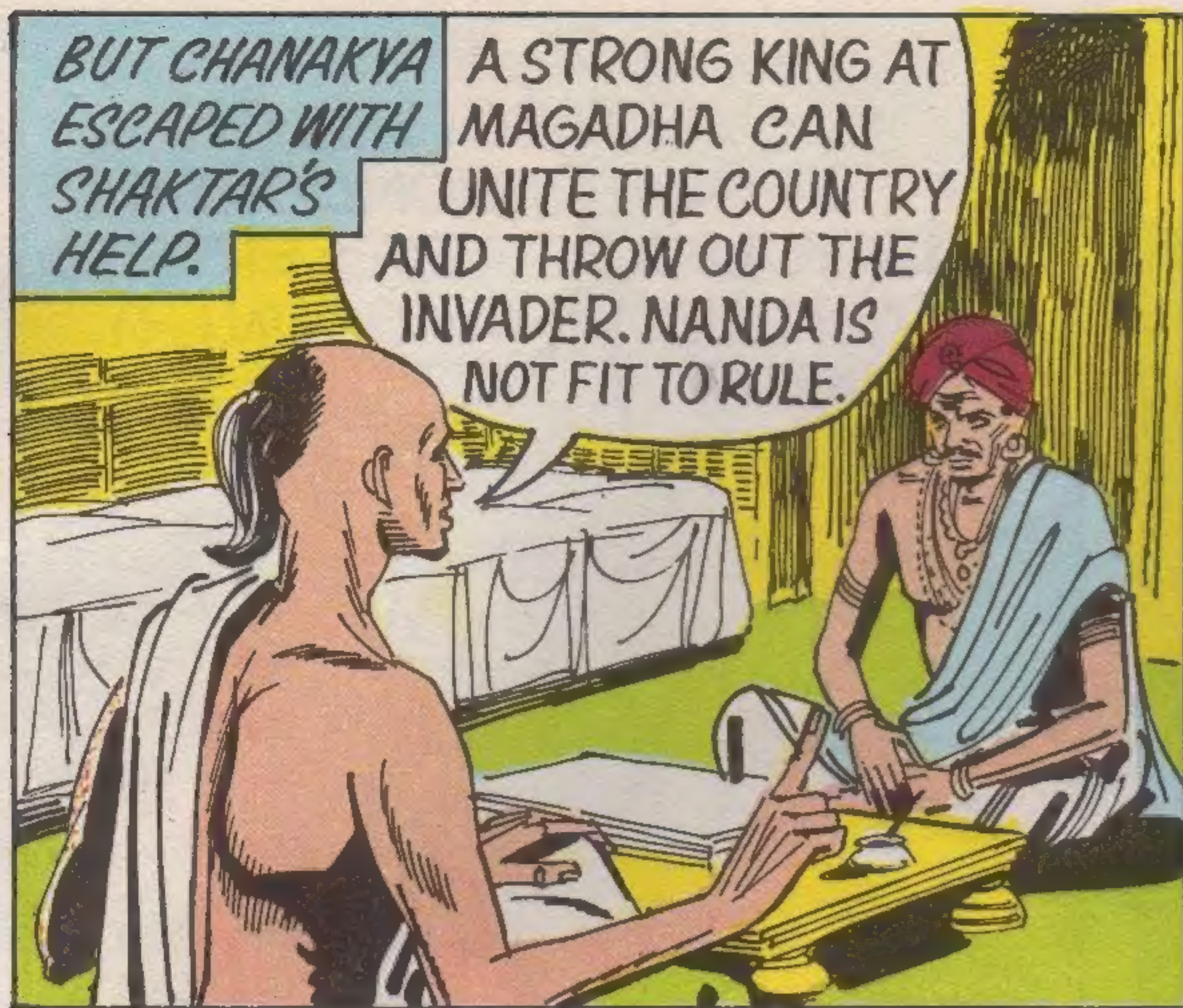


I WILL TAKE HIM TO THE COURT WHEN I CAN BE SURE, THE KING WILL BE DRUNK.

WILL YOU PLEASE COME TO THE PALACE? THE KING WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET A SCHOLAR LIKE YOU.

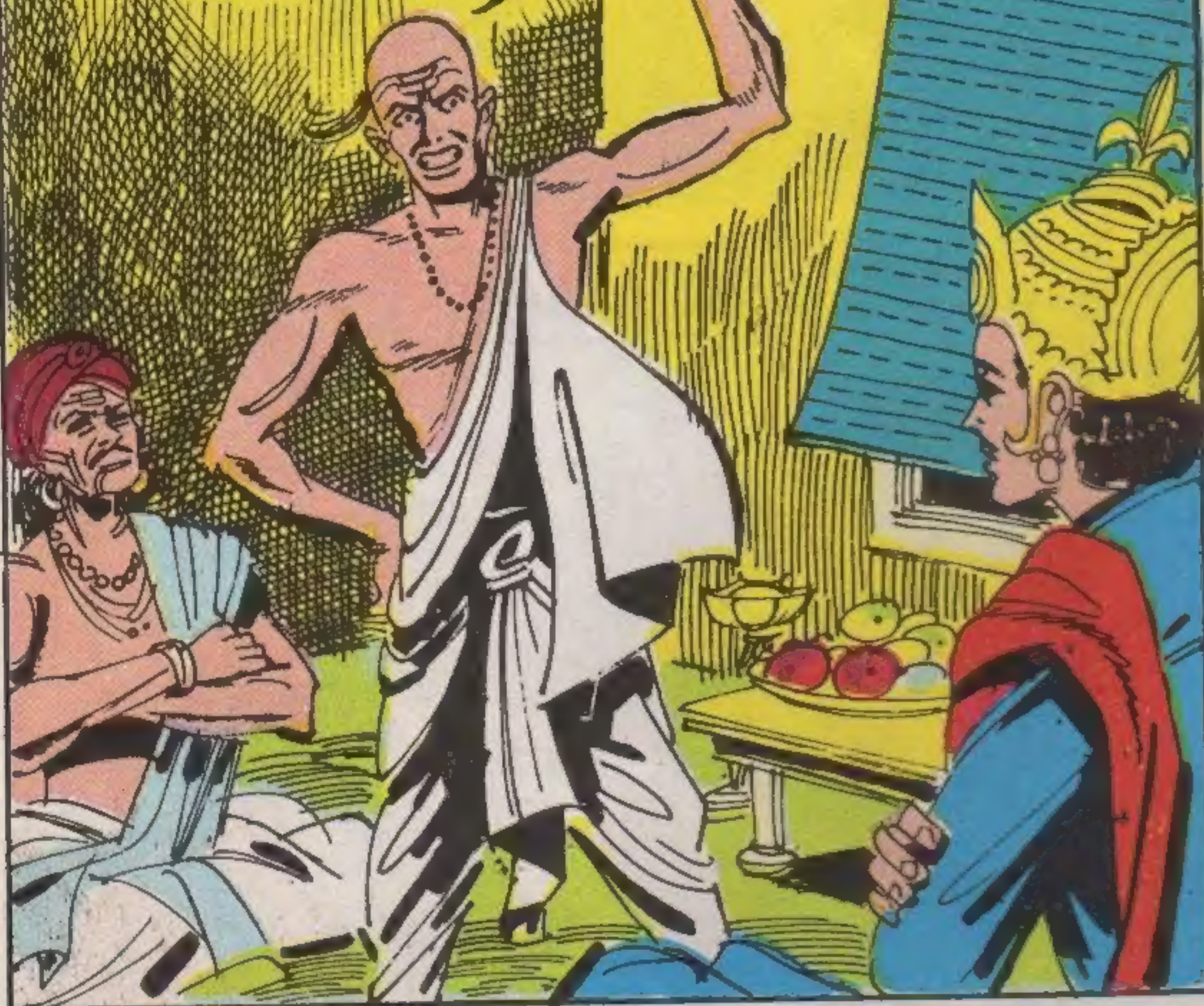






CHANAKYA AND SHAKTAR HAD A MEETING WITH CHANDRAGUPTA.

A POWERFUL KINGDOM LIKE MAGADHA CAN FREE THE COUNTRY FROM FOREIGN RULE. FOR THIS, MAGADHA NEEDS A BRAVE, INTELLIGENT AND DYNAMIC NEW KING.



AND YOU SHALL BE THE NEW KING.

I WILL BE HONoured TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.



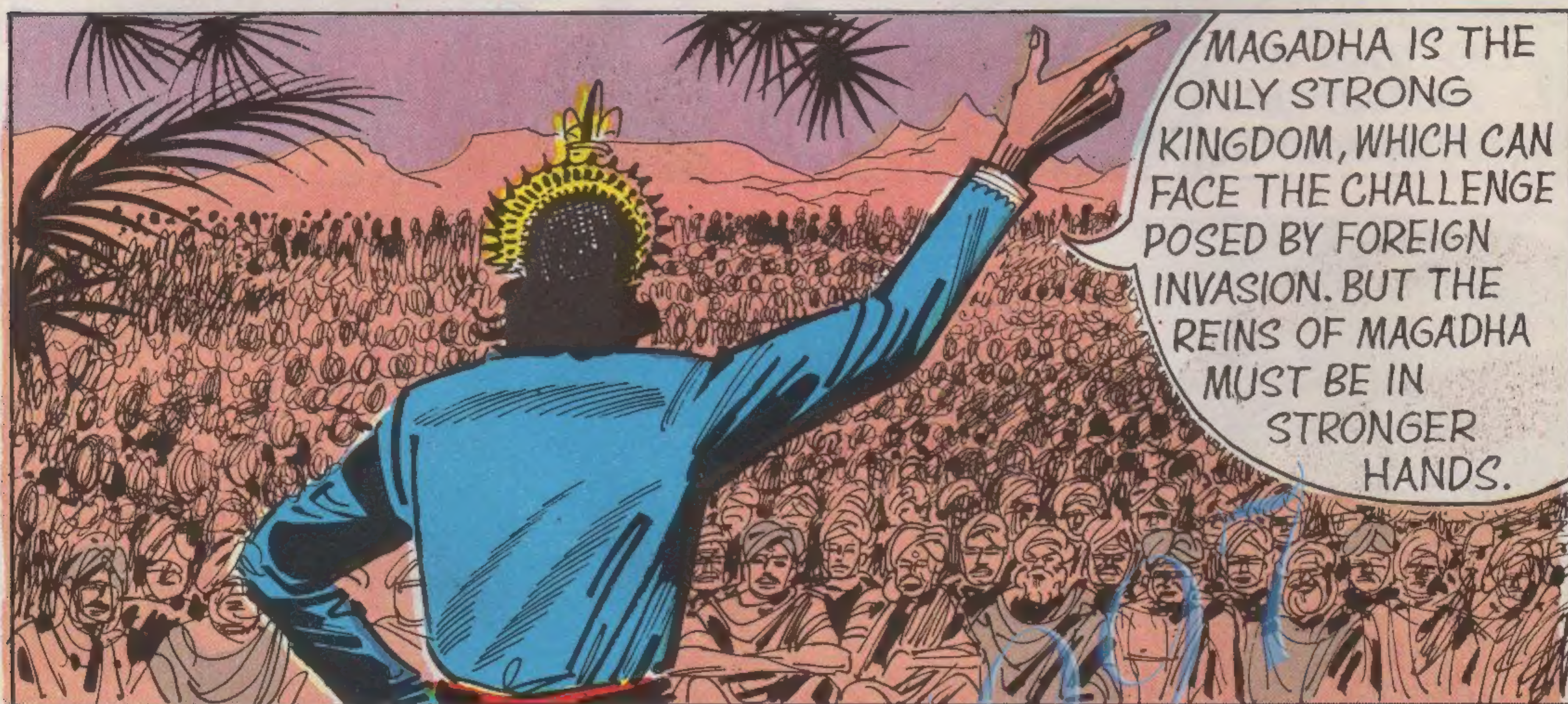
WELL THEN, GO AND RAISE AN ARMY TO DEFEAT NANDA.



CHANDRAGUPTA TOLD THE
SUFFERING PEASANTS OF THE
STUPIDITY OF KING NANDA.



OUR
COUNTRY
IS IN
GRAVE
DANGER.

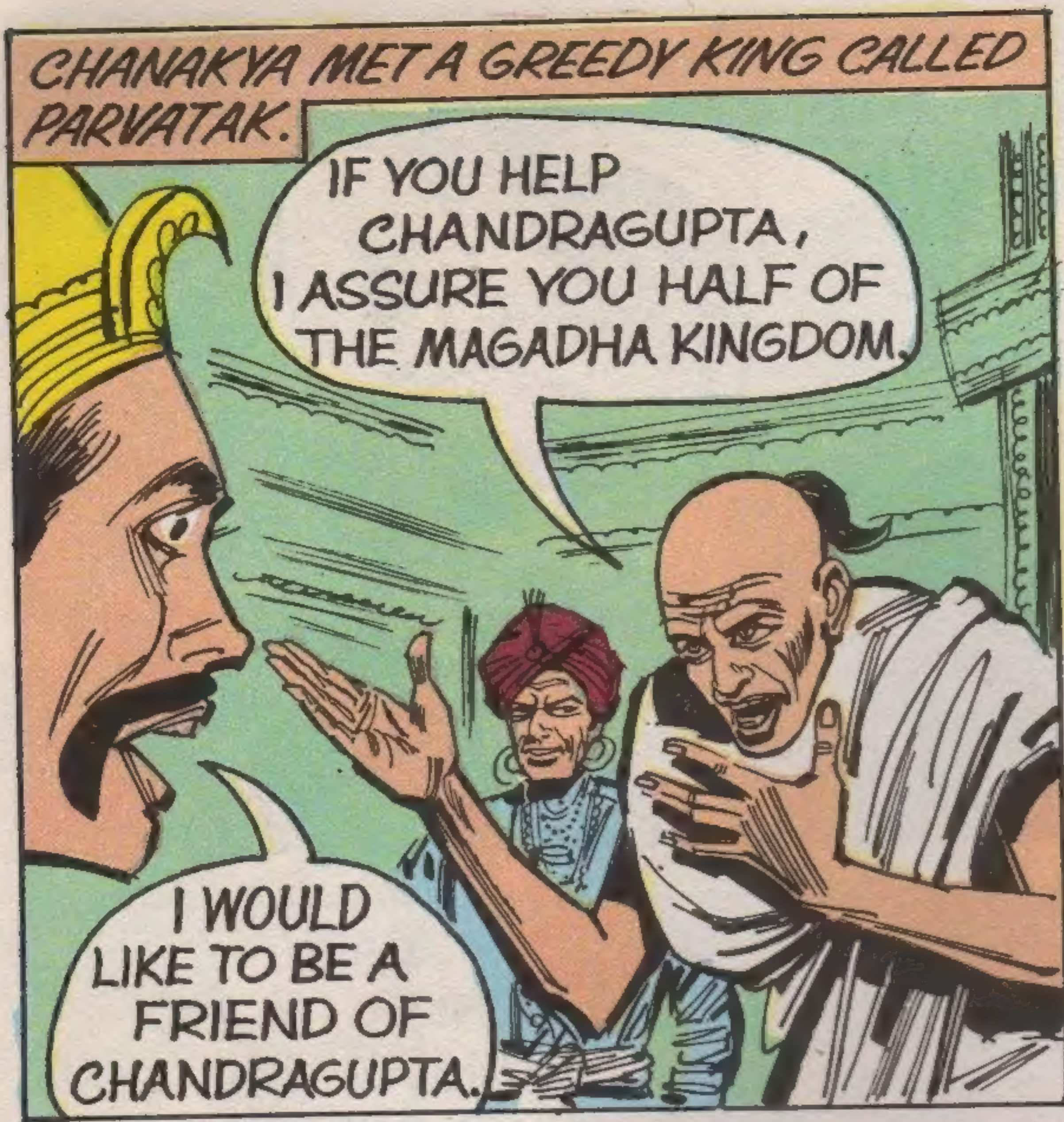


MAGADHA IS THE
ONLY STRONG
KINGDOM, WHICH CAN
FACE THE CHALLENGE
POSED BY FOREIGN
INVASION. BUT THE
REINS OF MAGADHA
MUST BE IN
STRONGER
HANDS.

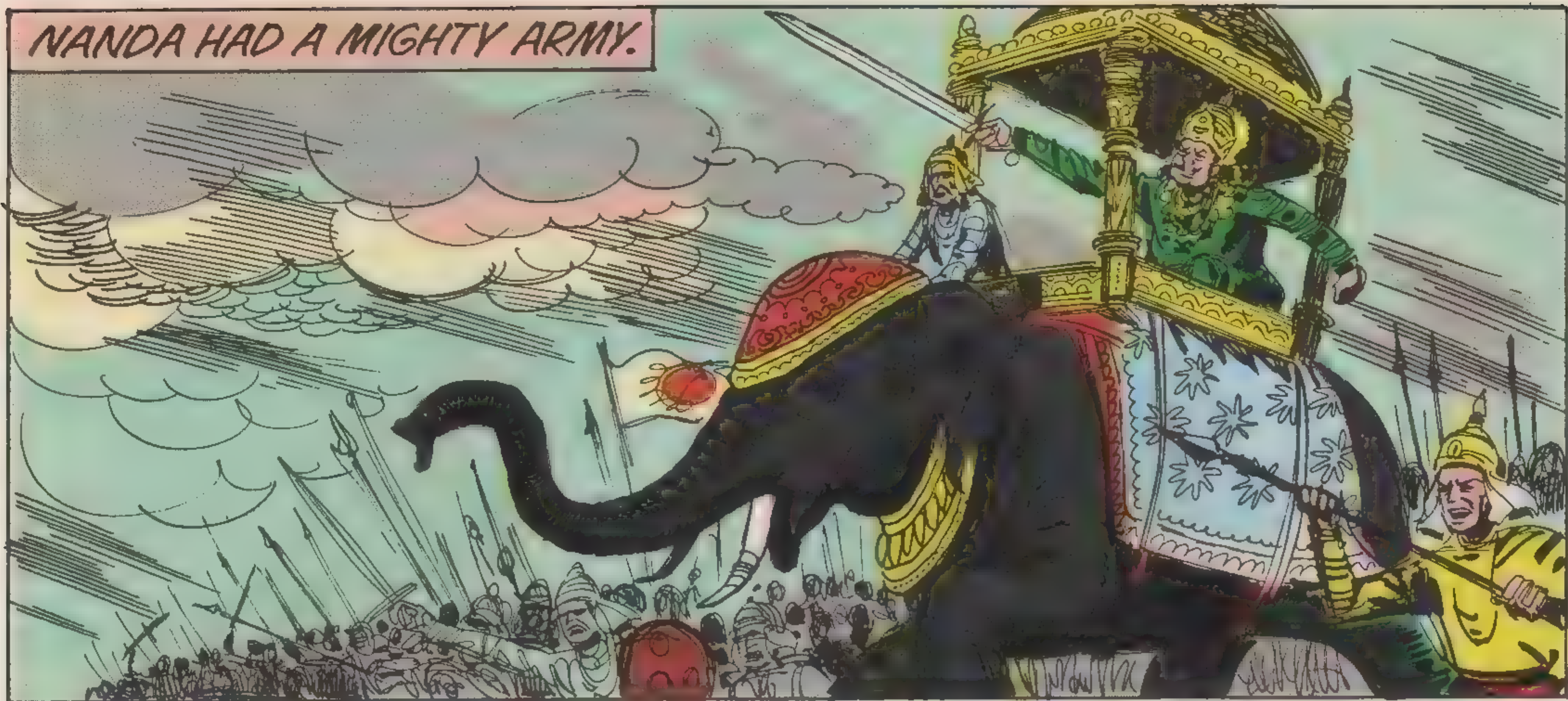
THUS HE WON MANY FOLLOWERS.



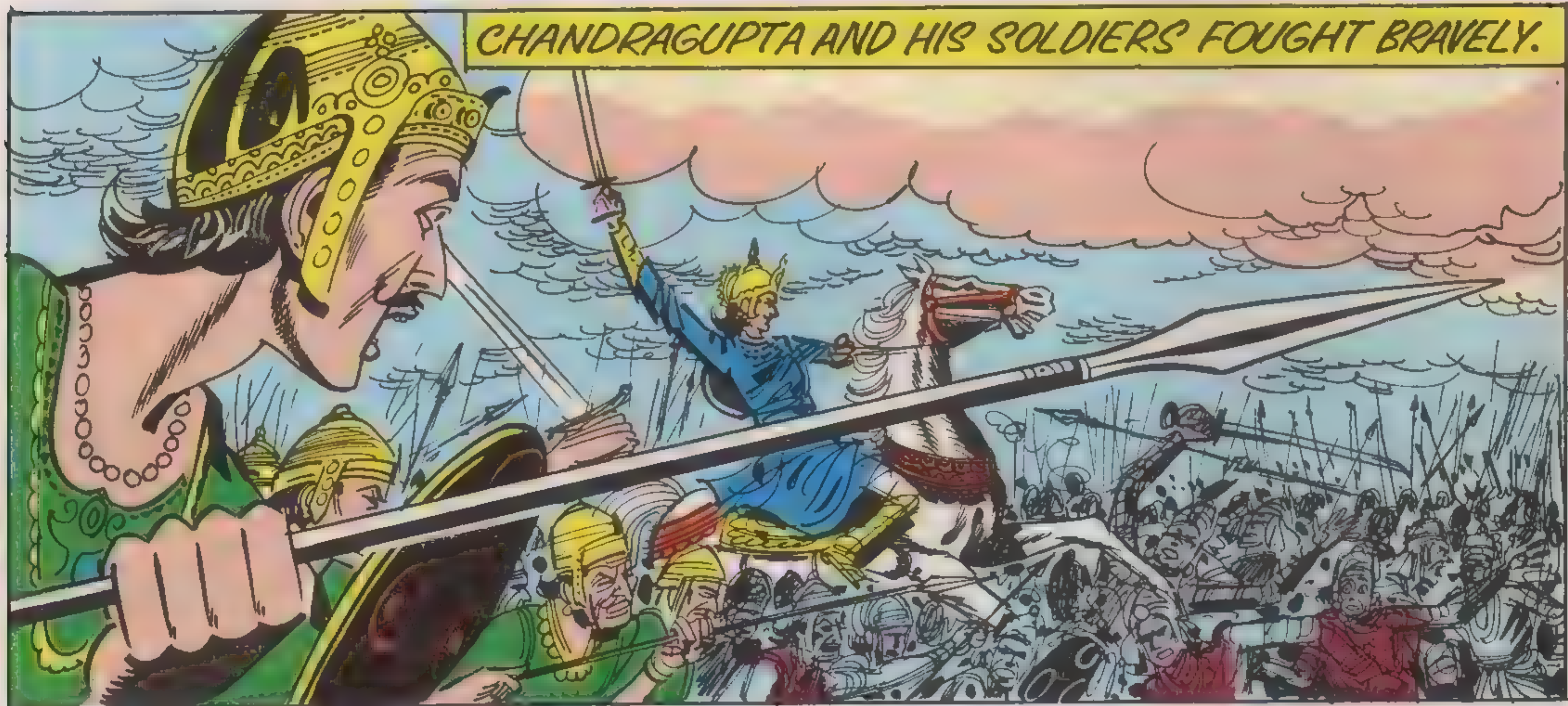
I THINK THE
TIME HAS COME
FOR US TO
STRIKE.

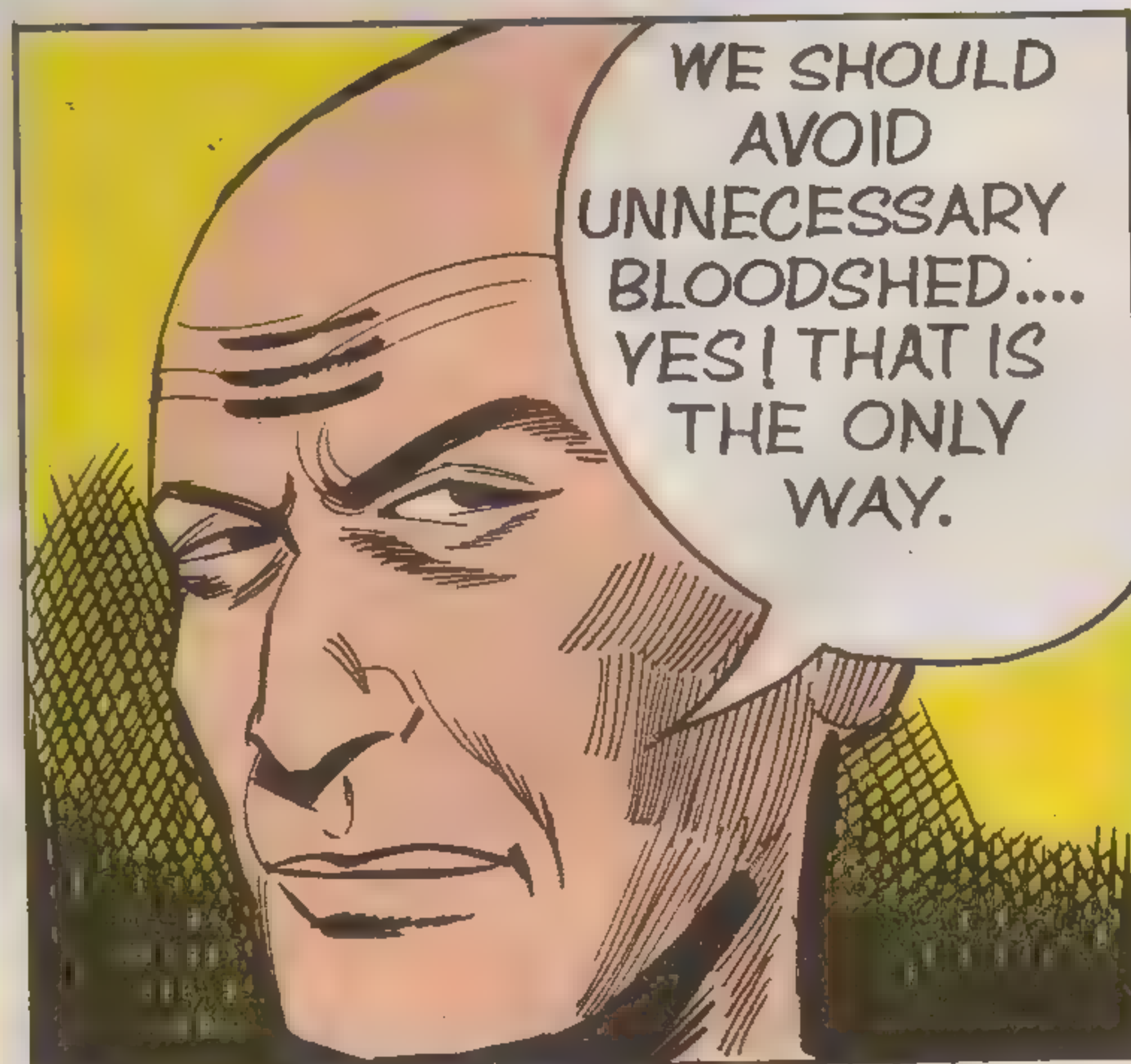
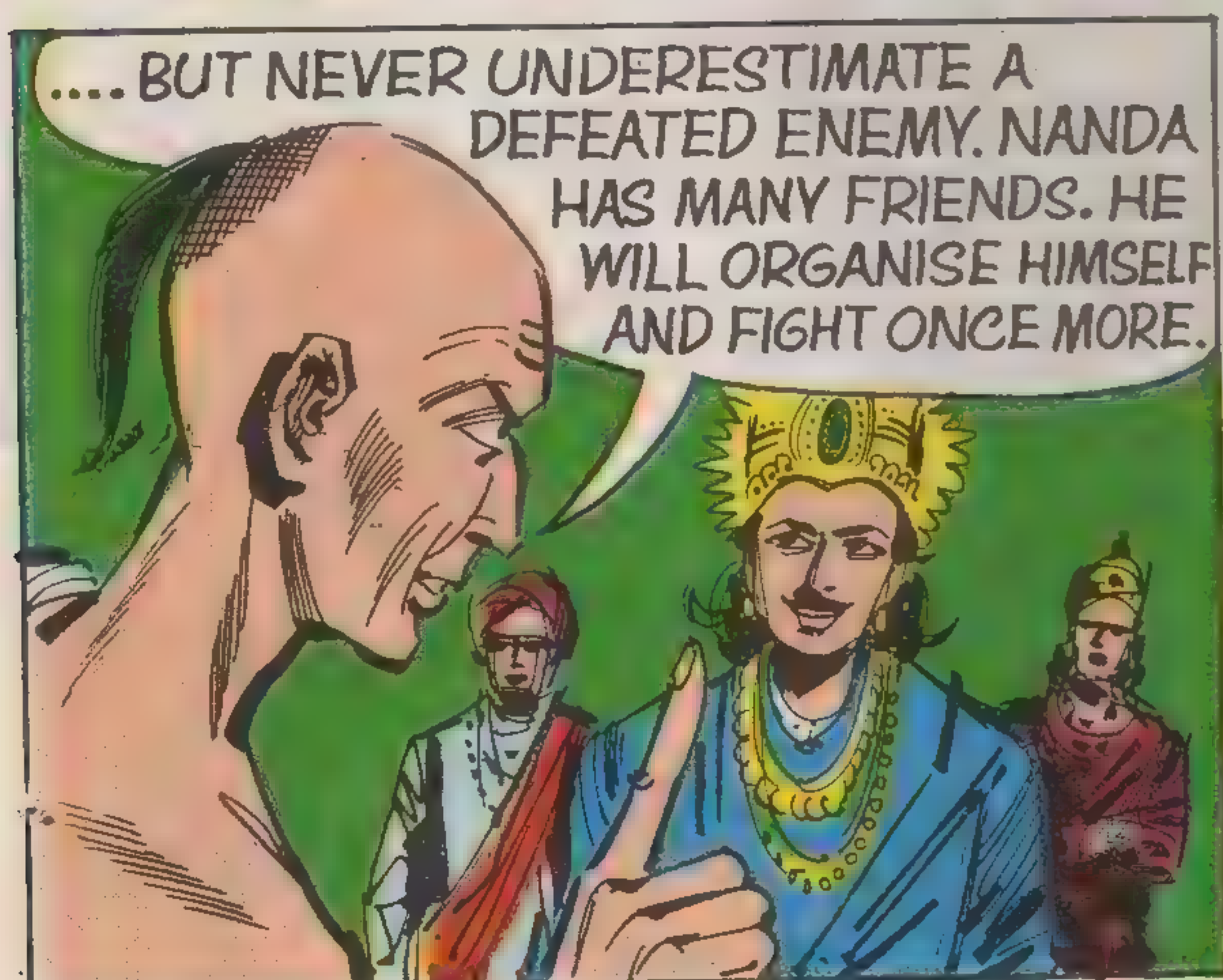
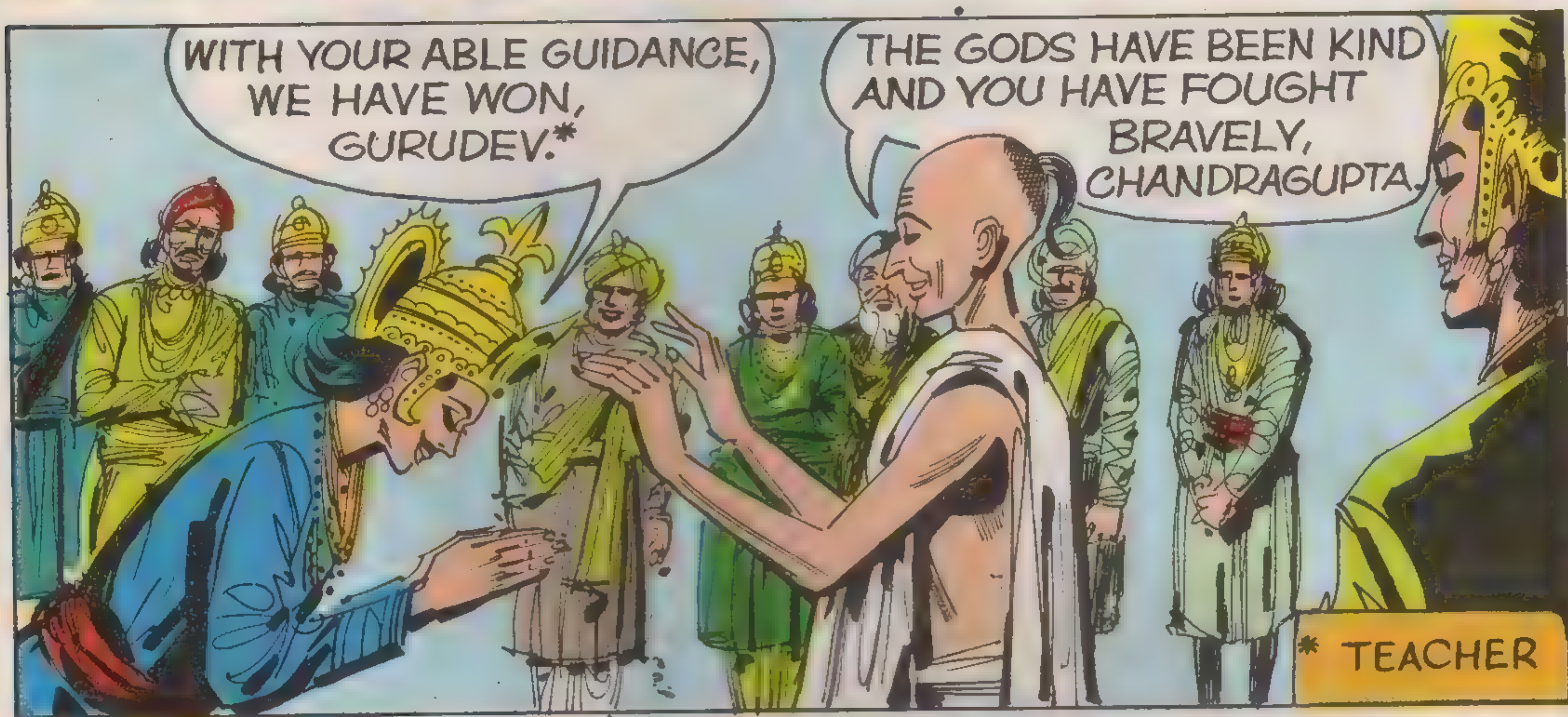
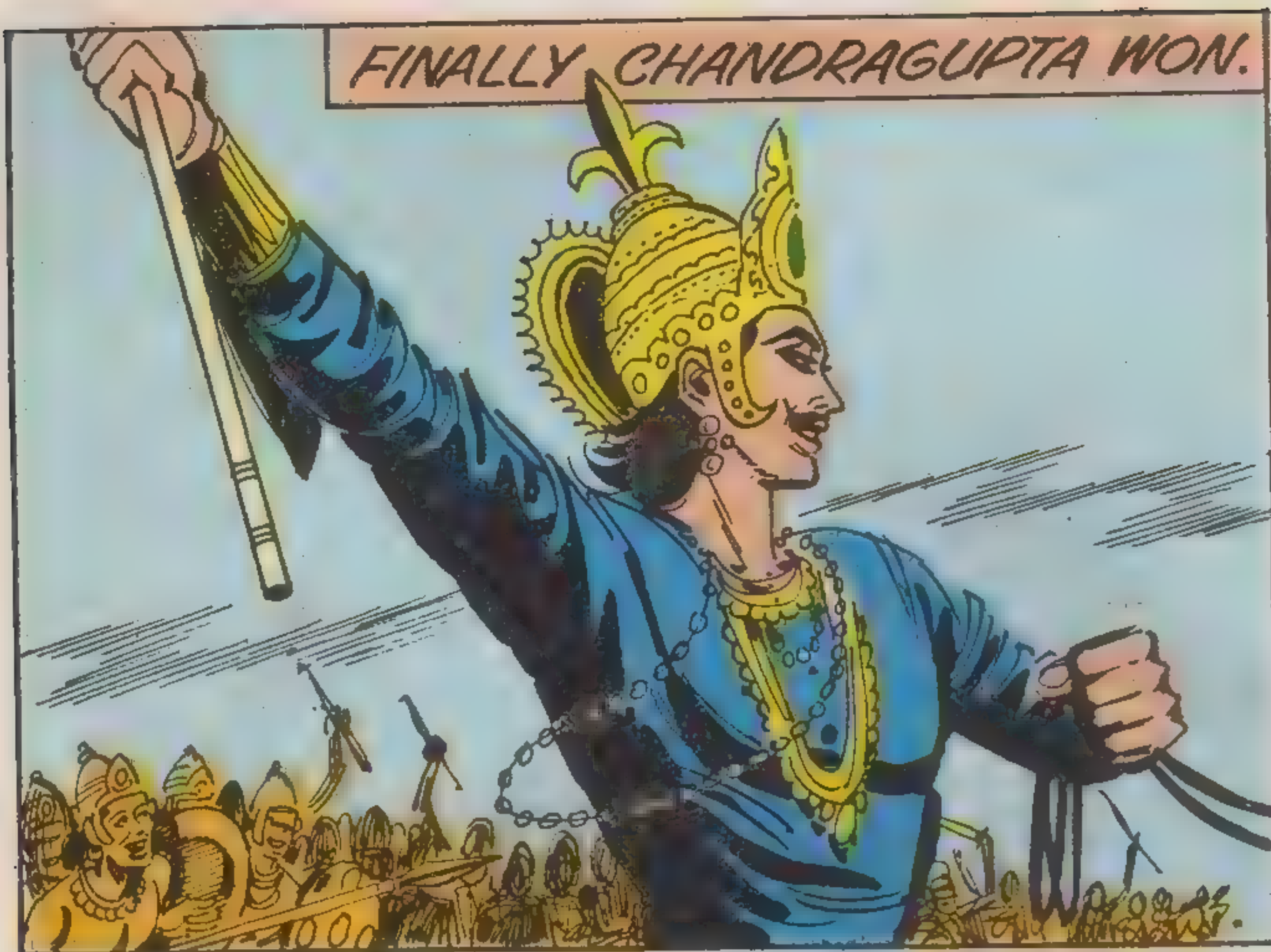


NANDA HAD A MIGHTY ARMY.

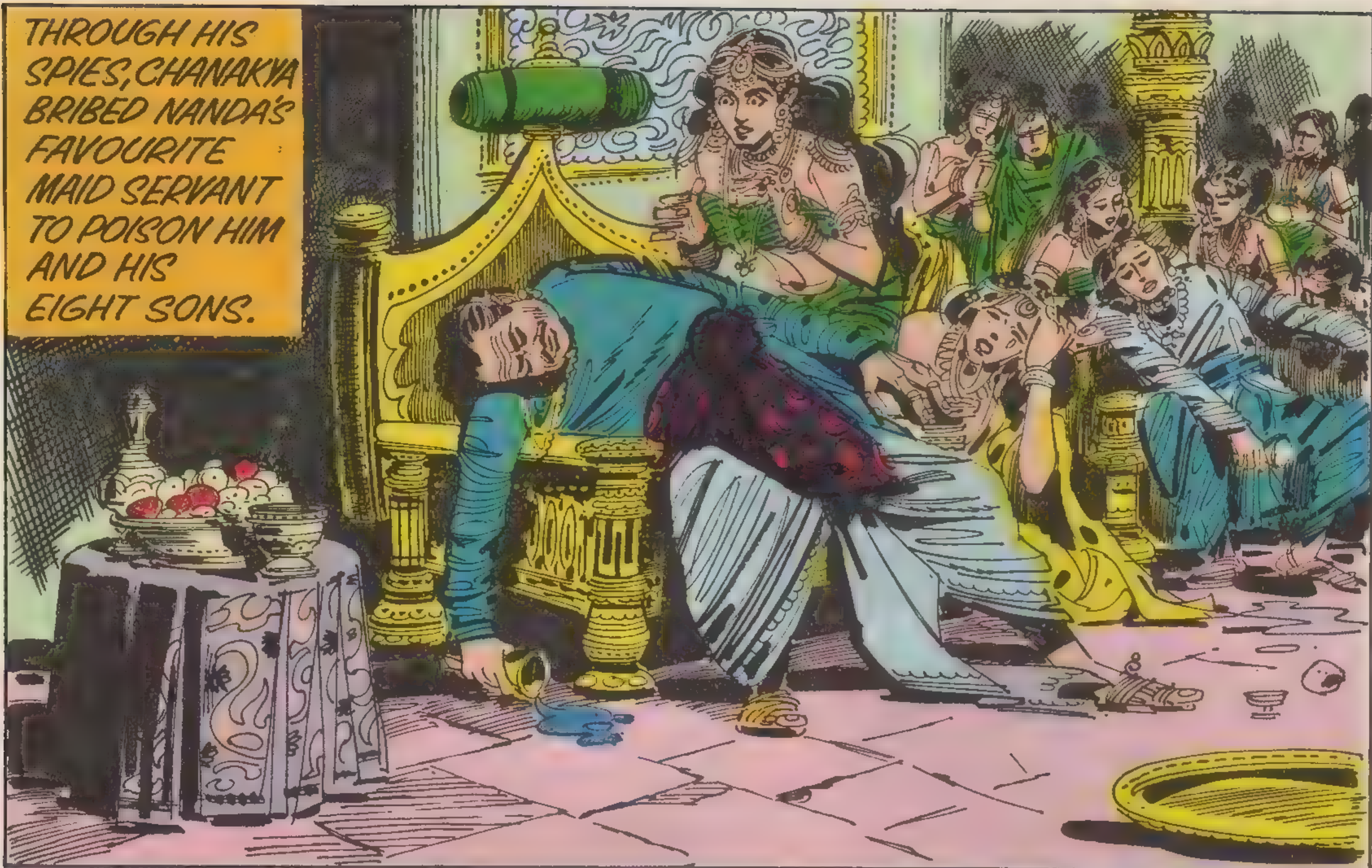


CHANDRAGUPTA AND HIS SOLDIERS FOUGHT BRAVELY.

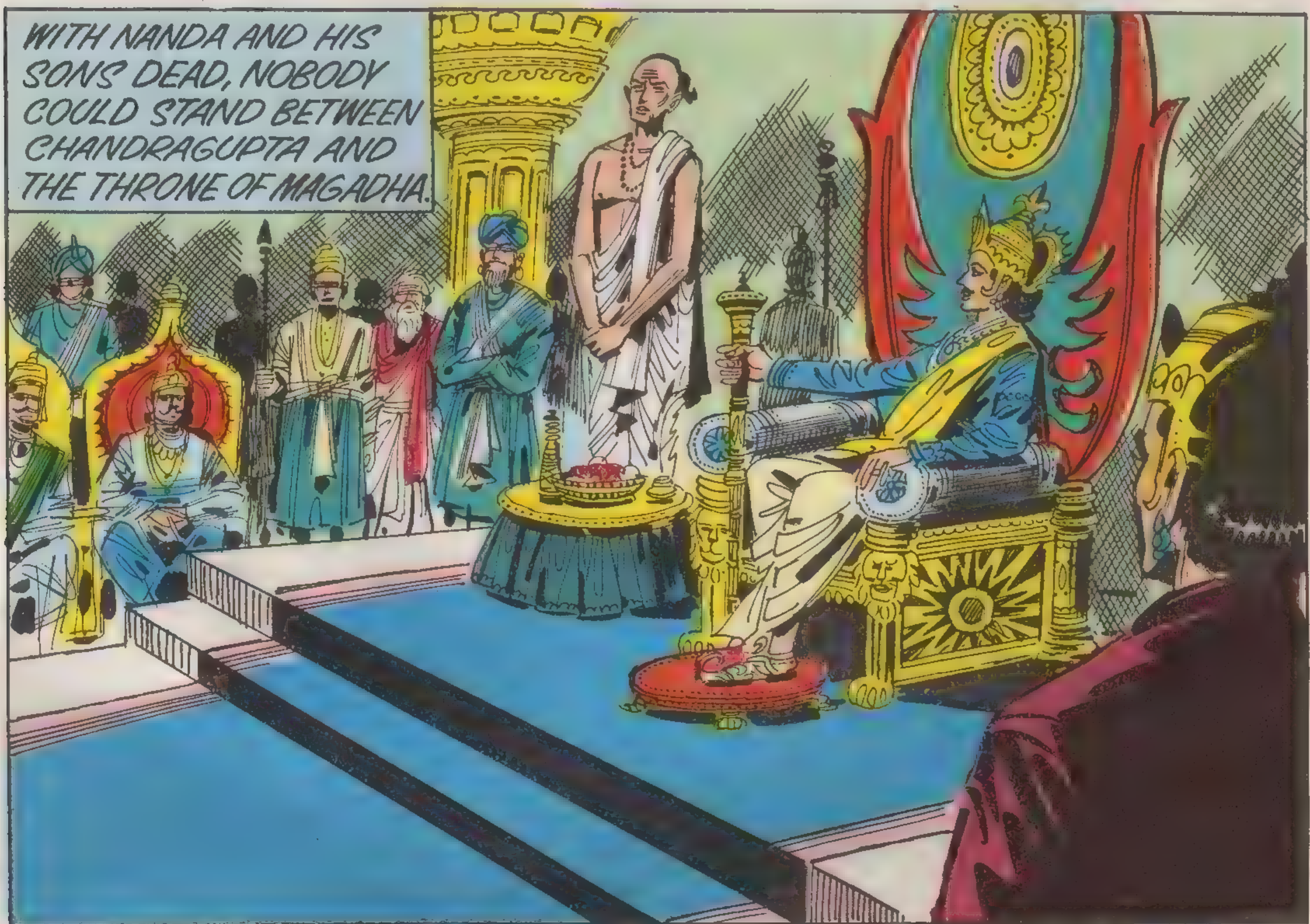


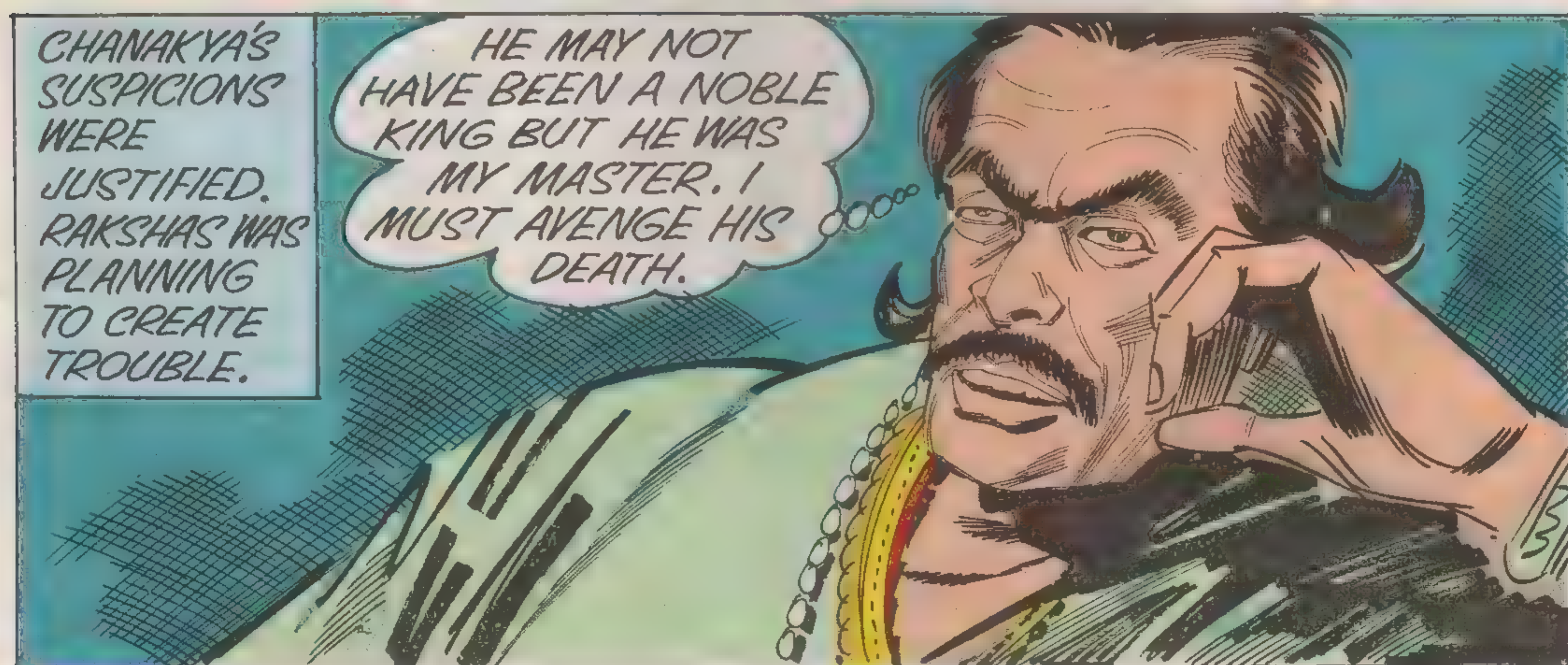
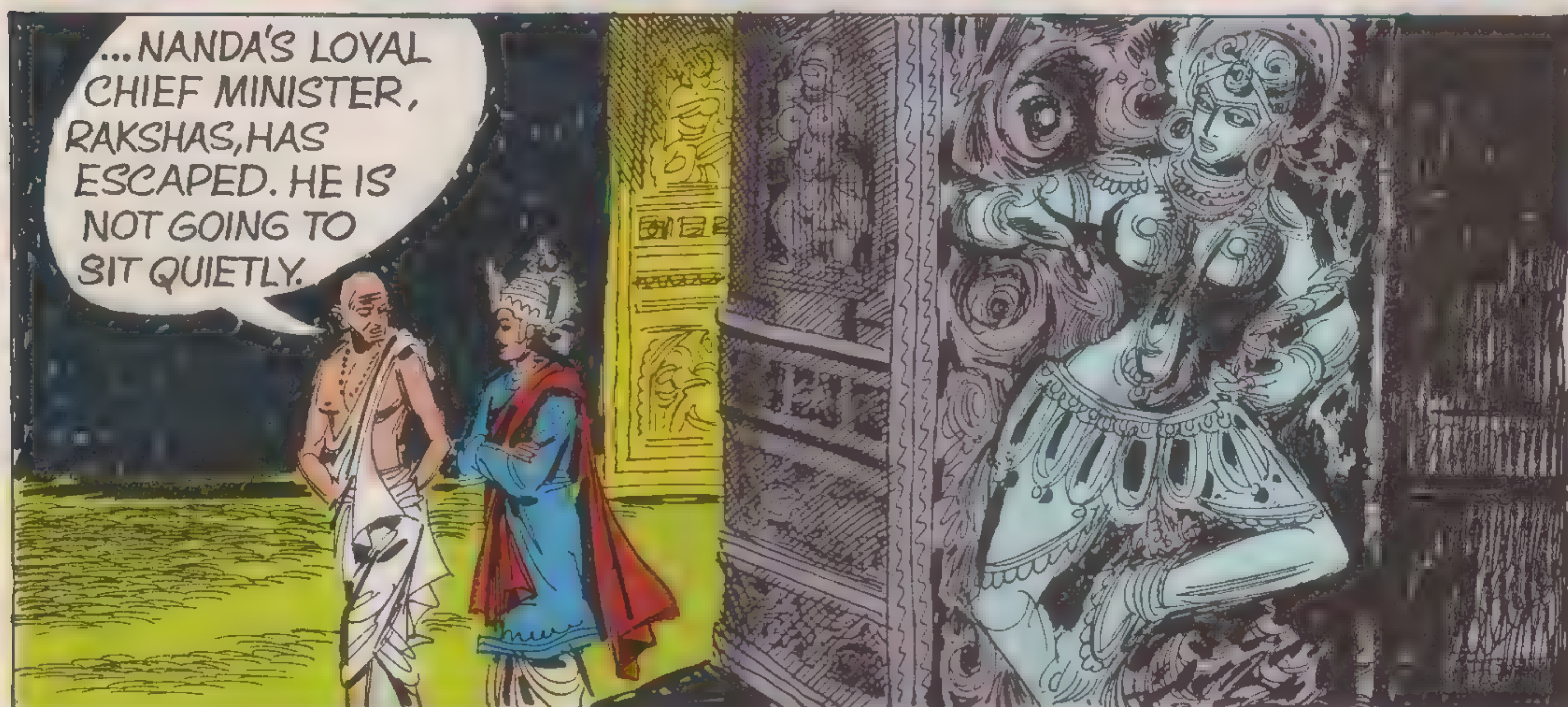
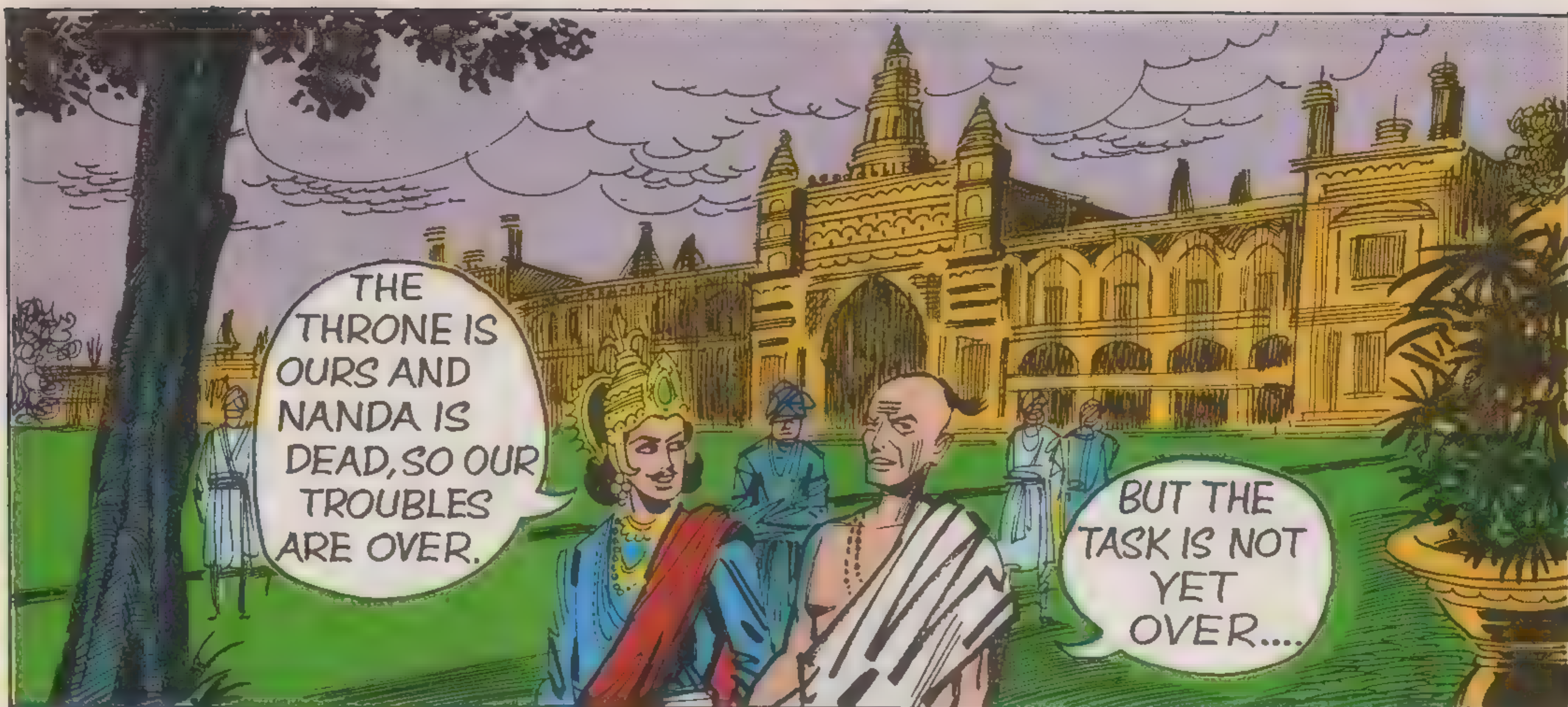


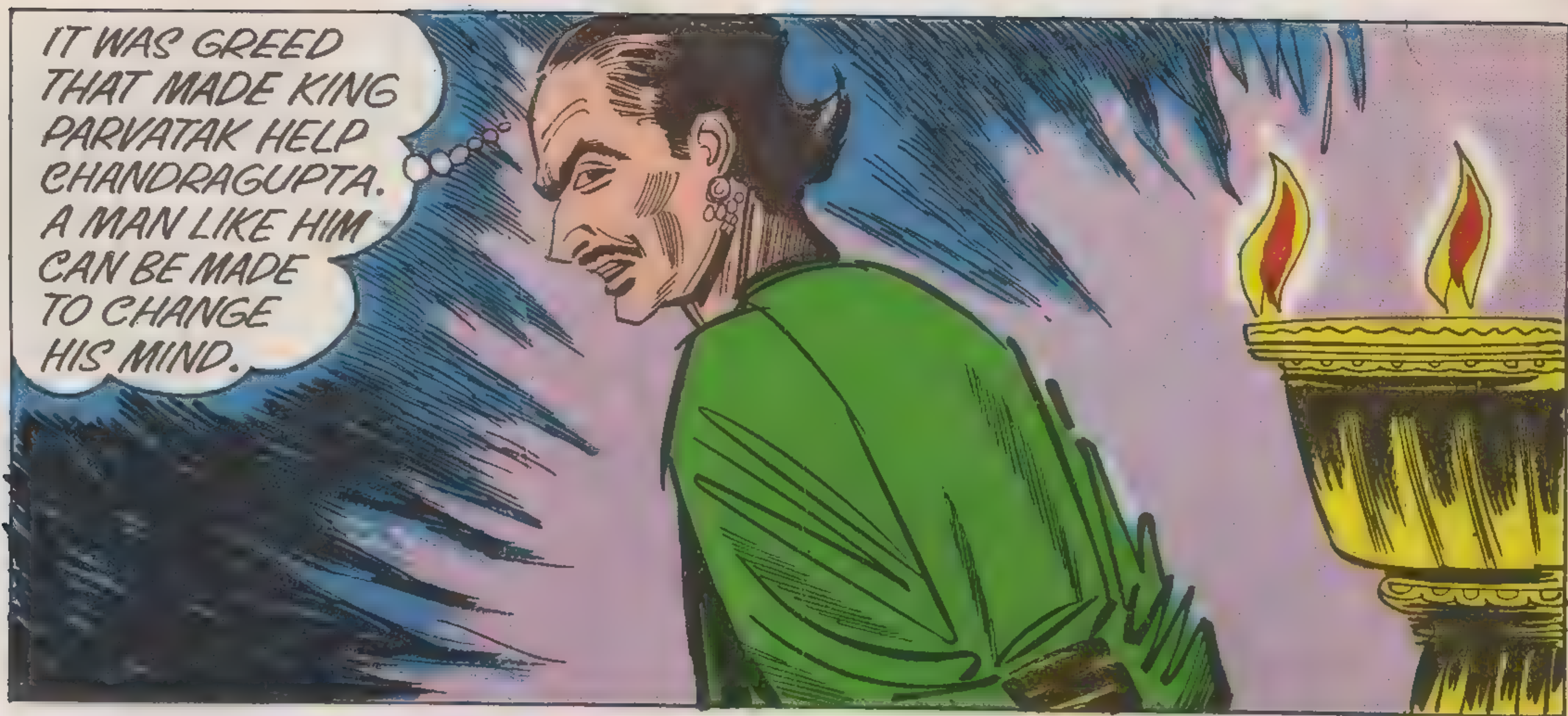
THROUGH HIS SPIES, CHANAKYA BRIBED NANDA'S FAVOURITE MAID SERVANT TO POISON HIM AND HIS EIGHT SONS.

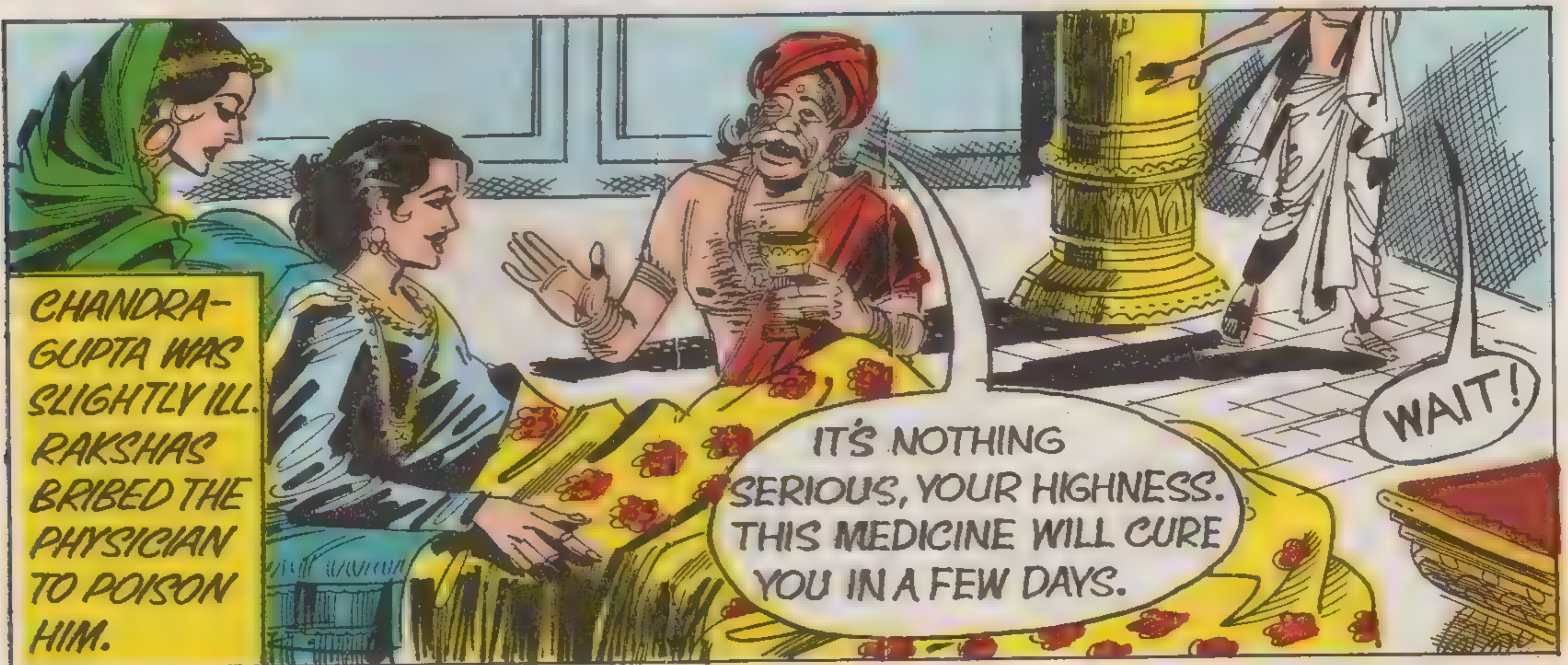
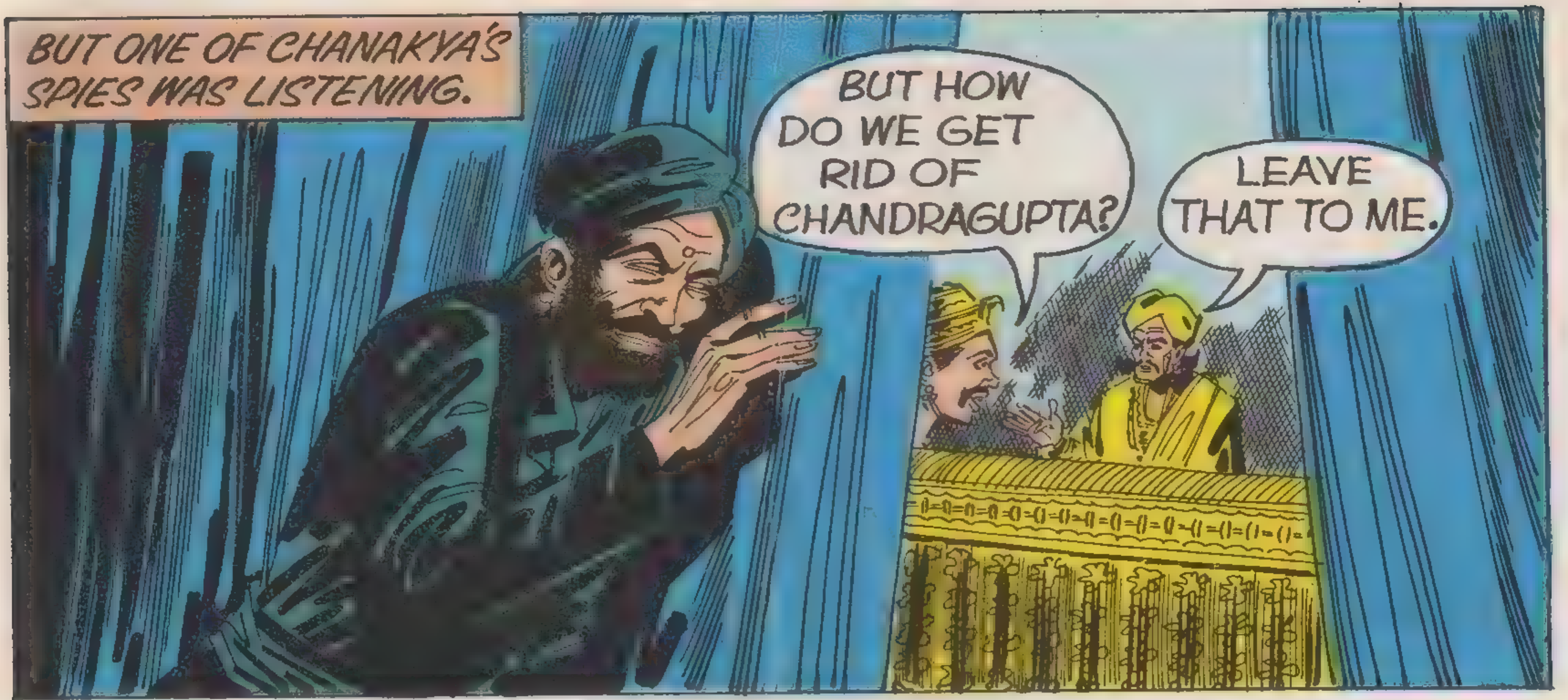


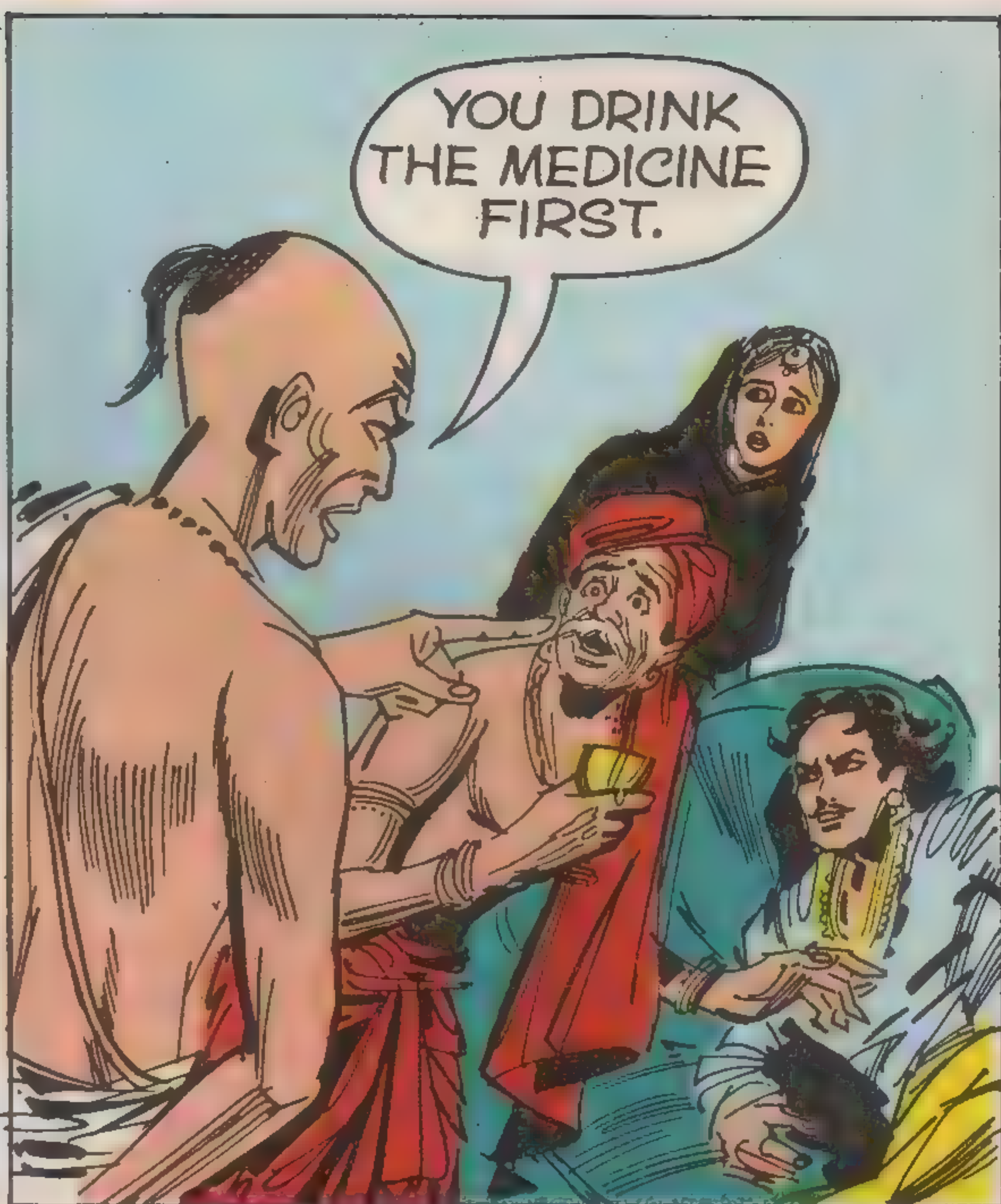
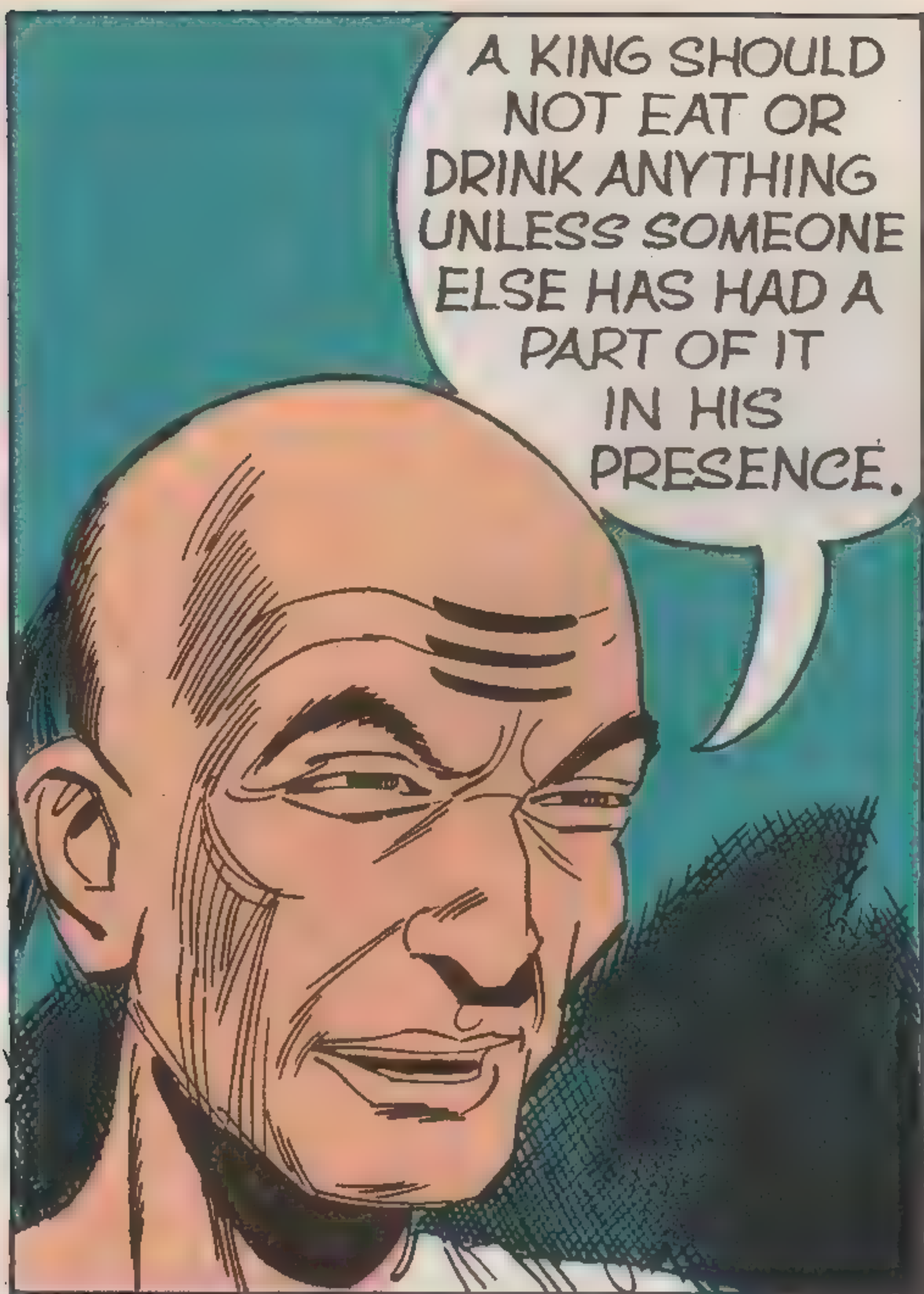
WITH NANDA AND HIS SONS DEAD, NOBODY COULD STAND BETWEEN CHANDRAGUPTA AND THE THRONE OF MAGADHA.











RAKSHAS WAS UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF THE PHYSICIAN.

CHANAKYA IS VERY CLEVER. I HAVE LOST A GOOD FRIEND.

JUST THEN A SPY OF RAKSHAS BROUGHT EXCITING NEWS.

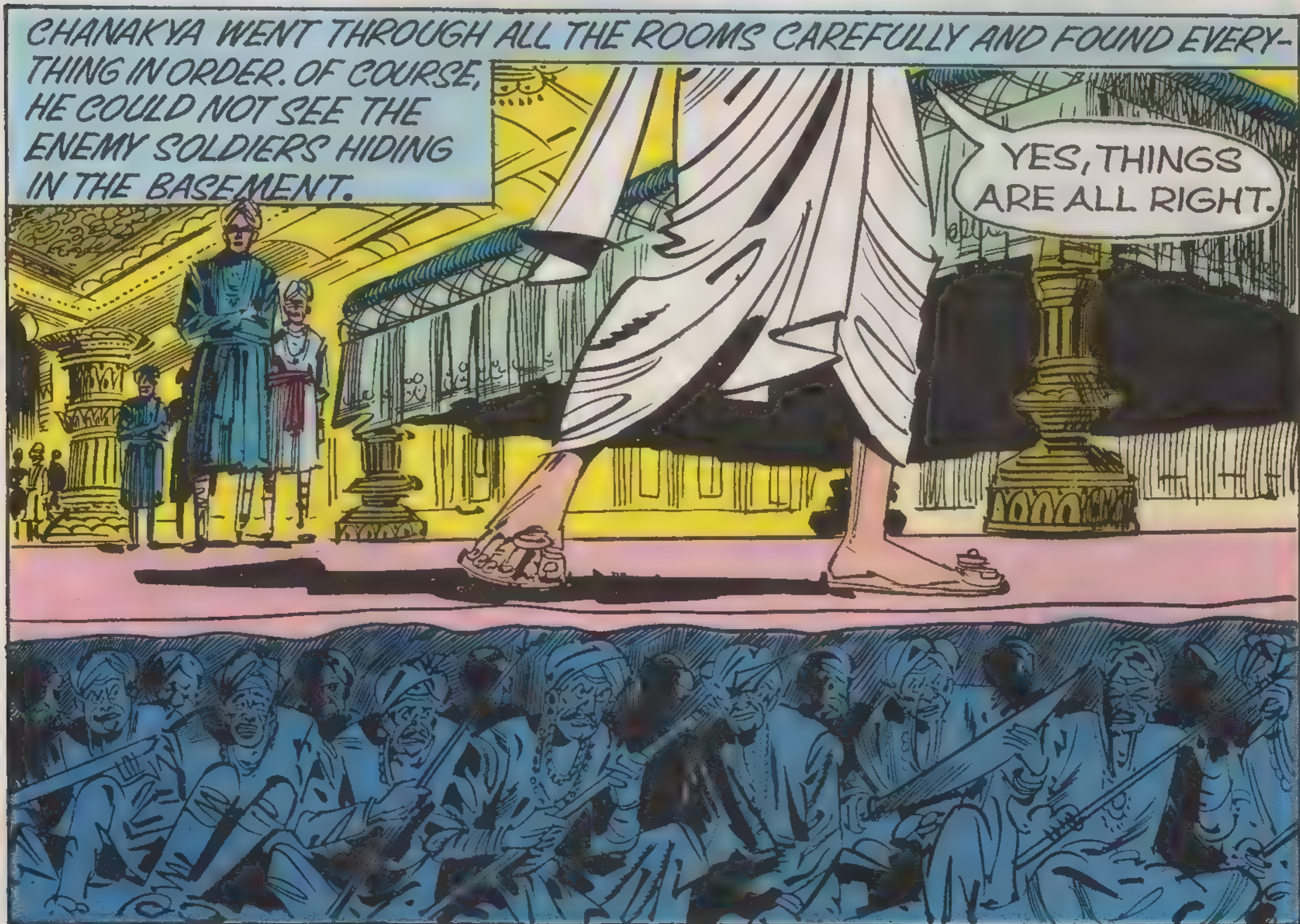
AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, CHANDRA-GUPTA IS GOING TO MOVE INTO NANDA'S PALACE.

YOU HAVE BROUGHT GOOD NEWS.

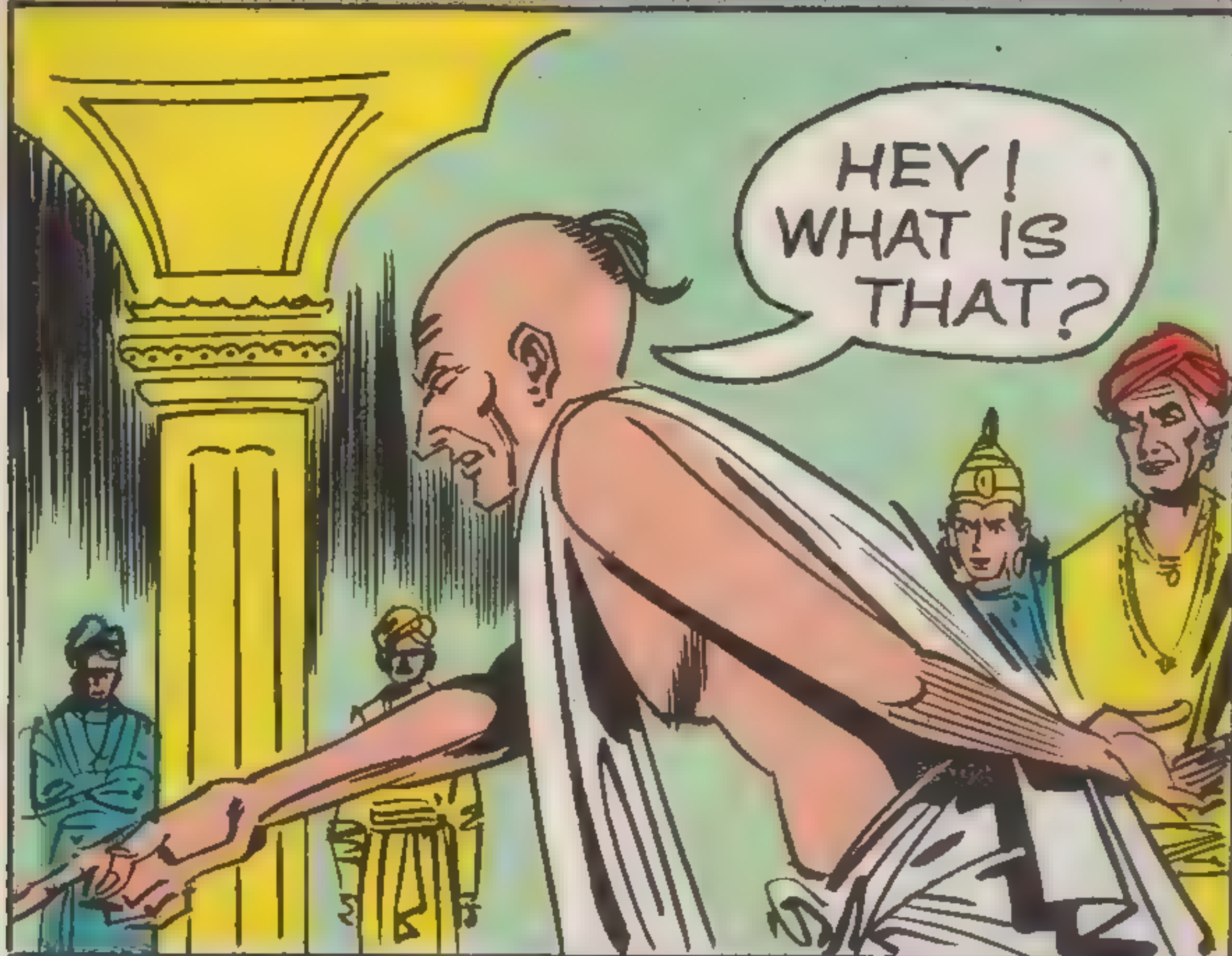
NOW NOBODY CAN SAVE YOU, CHANDRA-GUPTA!

THE PALACE HAS BEEN REFURNISHED, MAHARAJ! IT IS NOW READY FOR YOU.

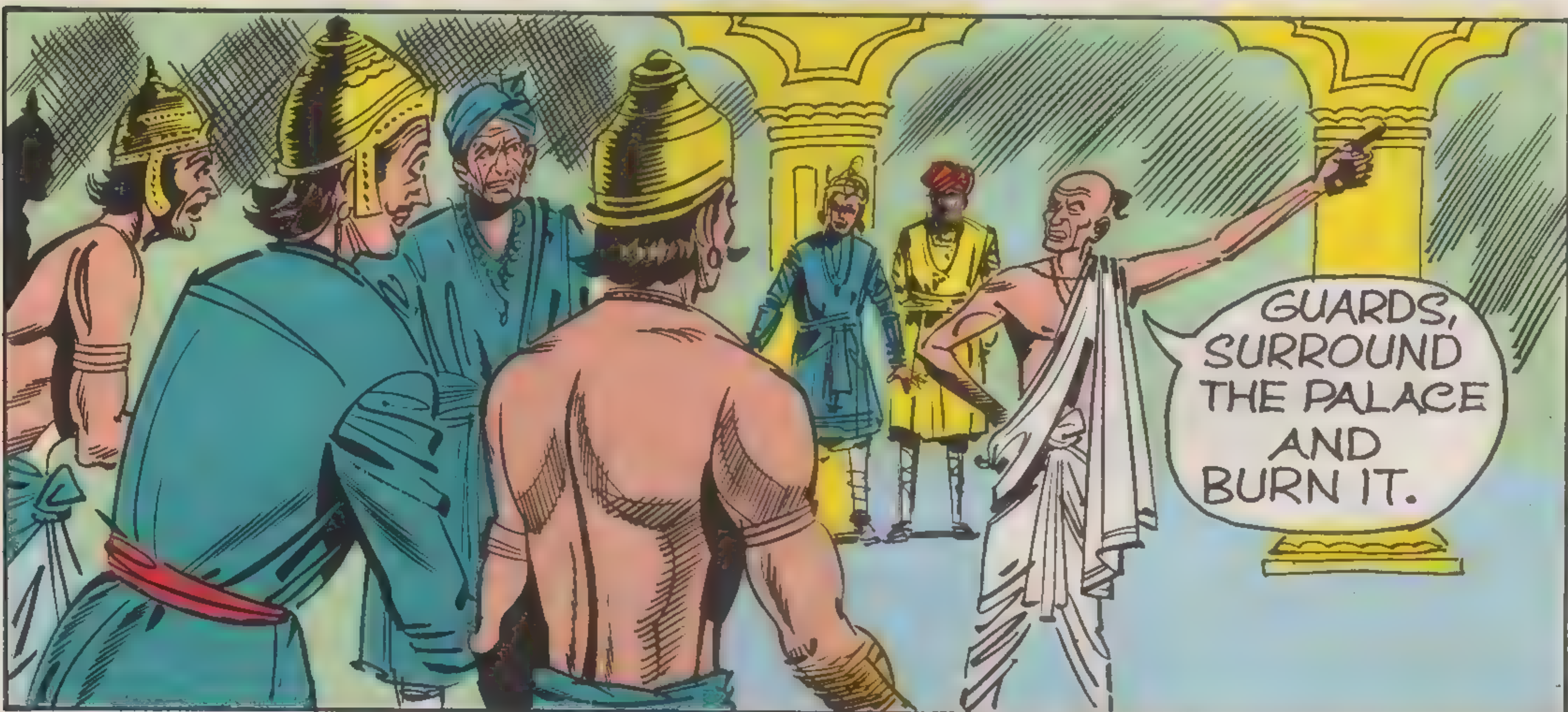
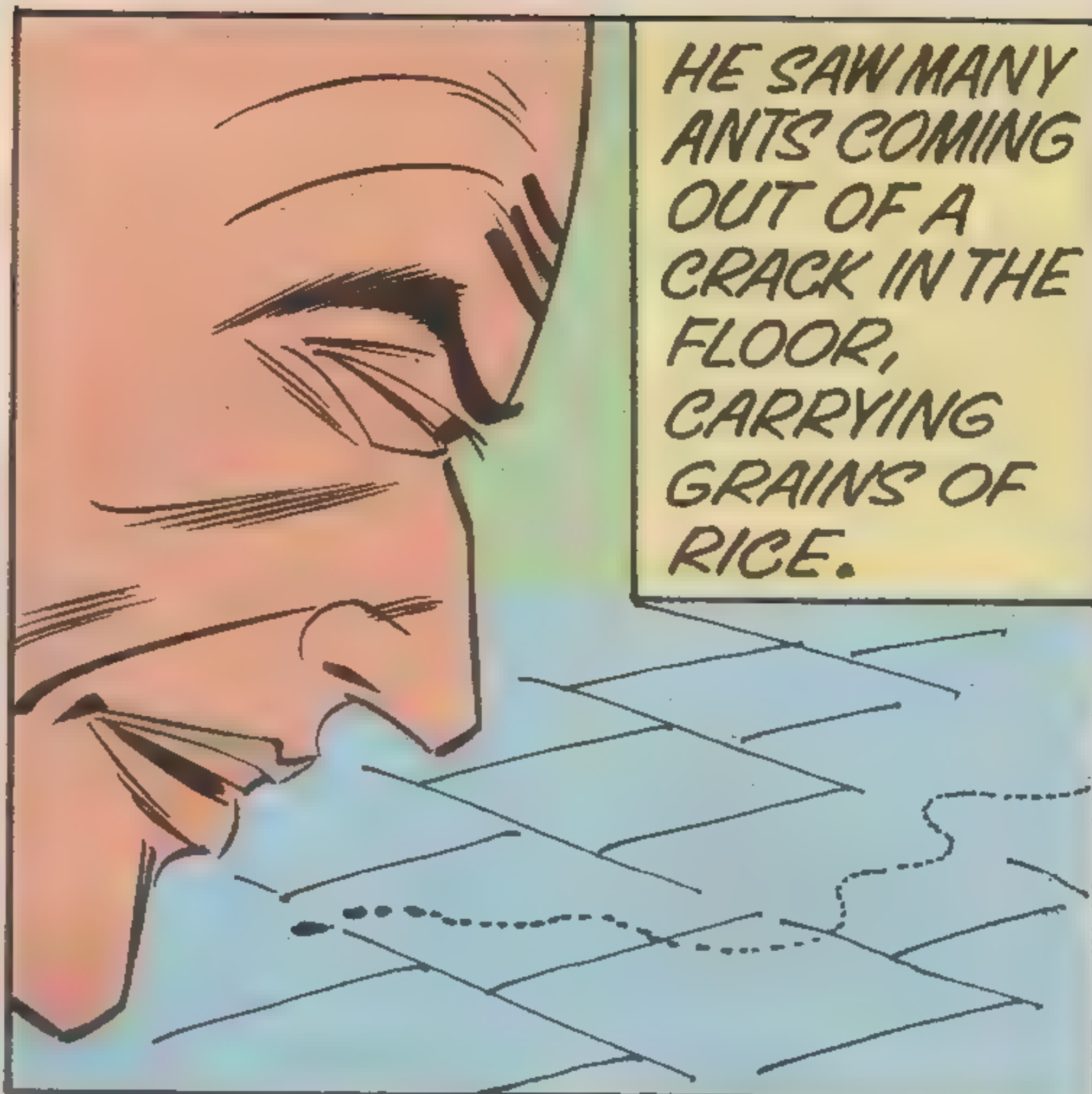
WAIT, THE PALACE MUST BE CHECKED PROPERLY BEFORE THE KING ENTERS.



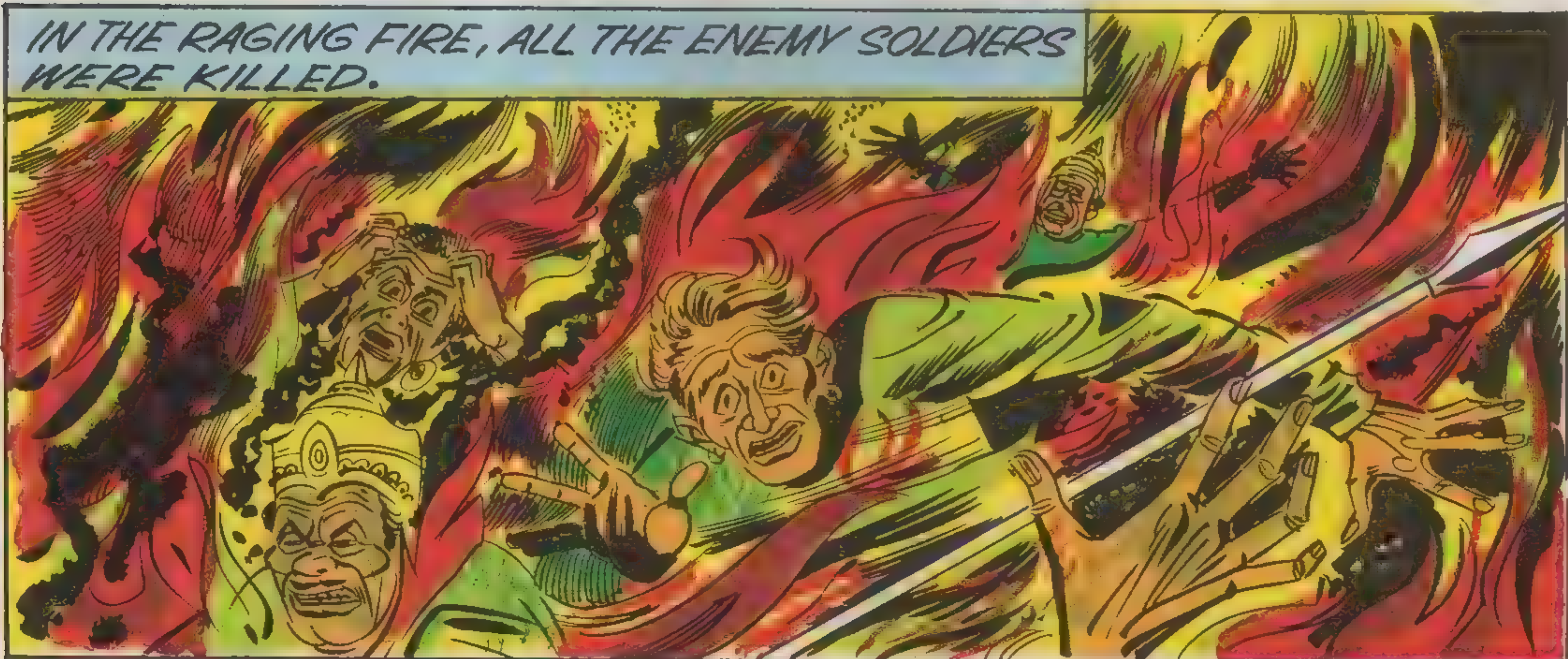
BUT CHANAKYA WAS ALWAYS ALERT.

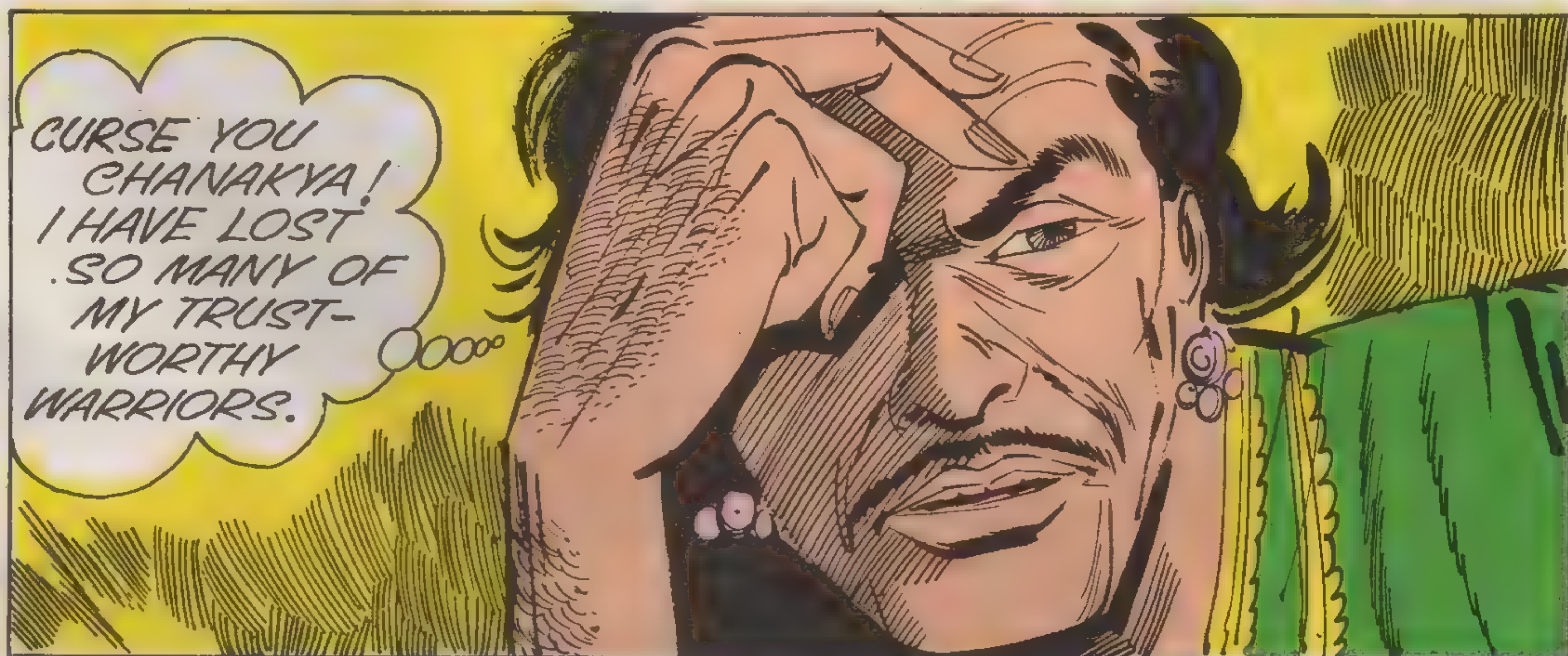
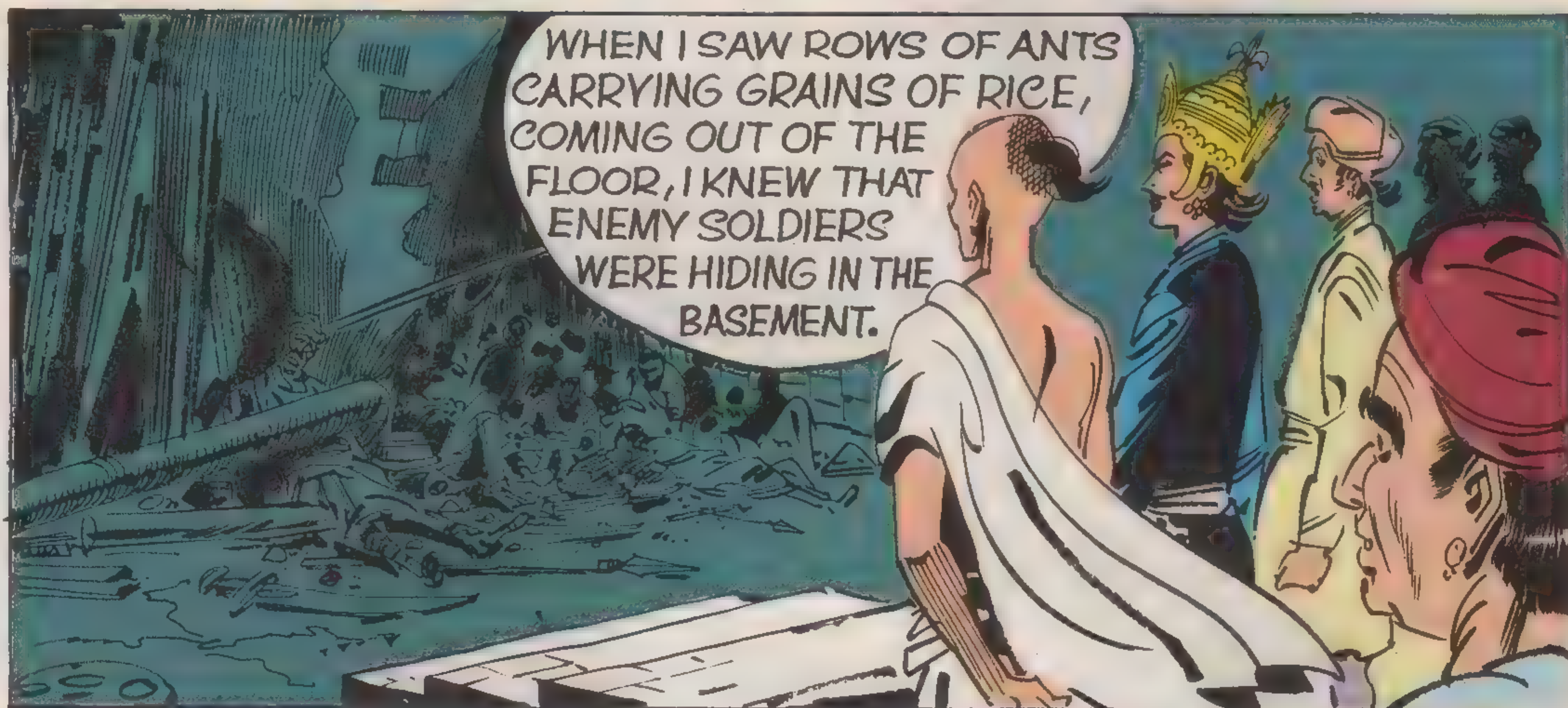
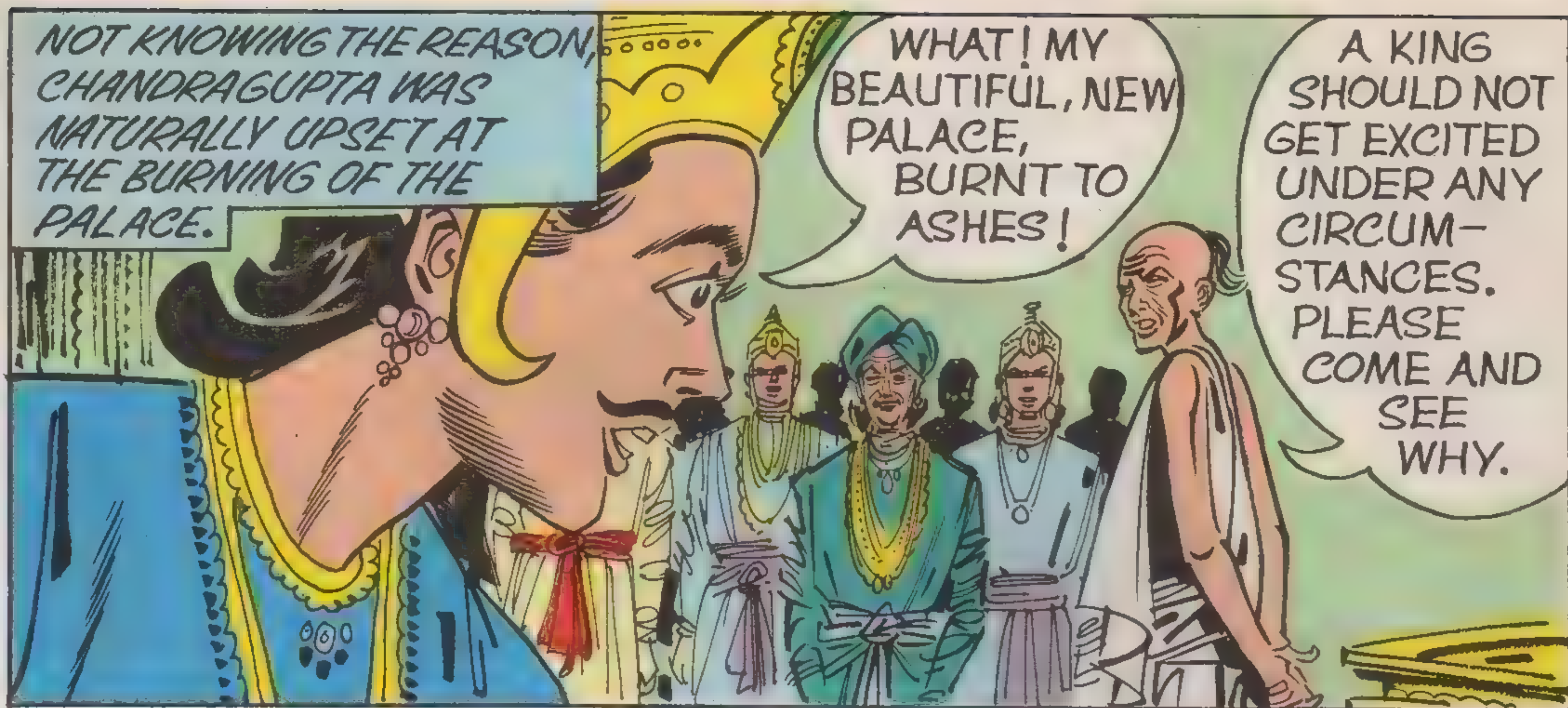


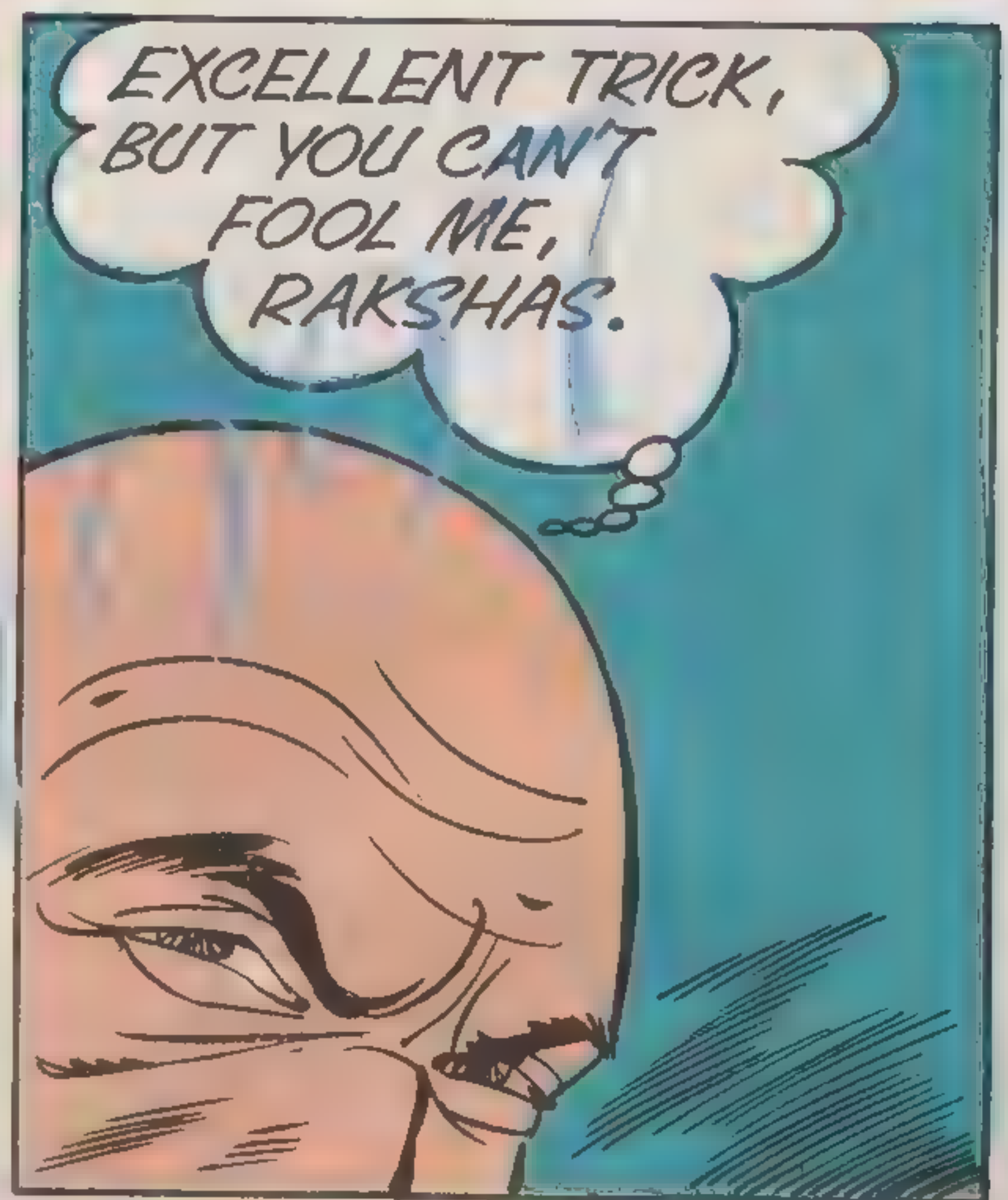
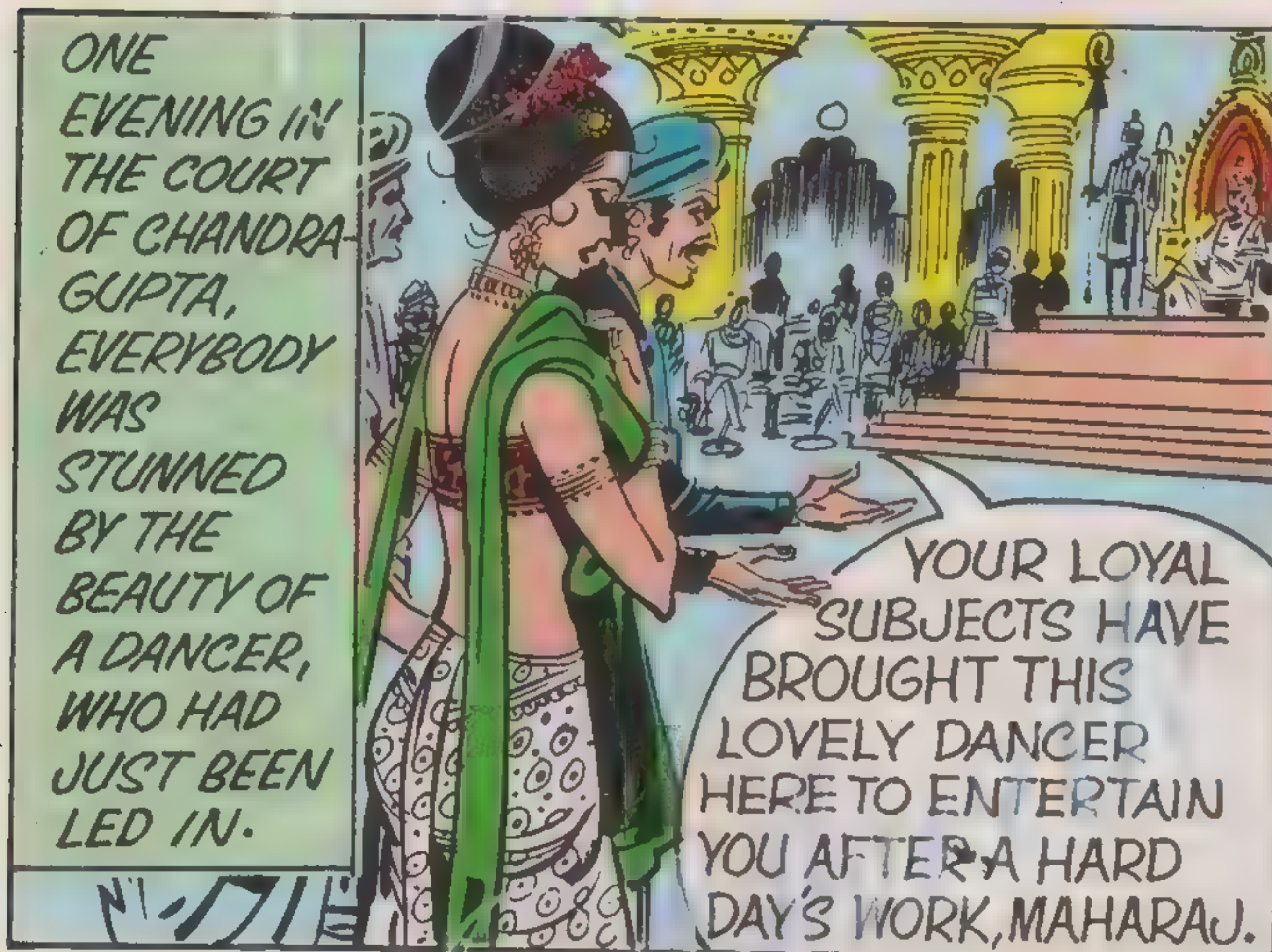
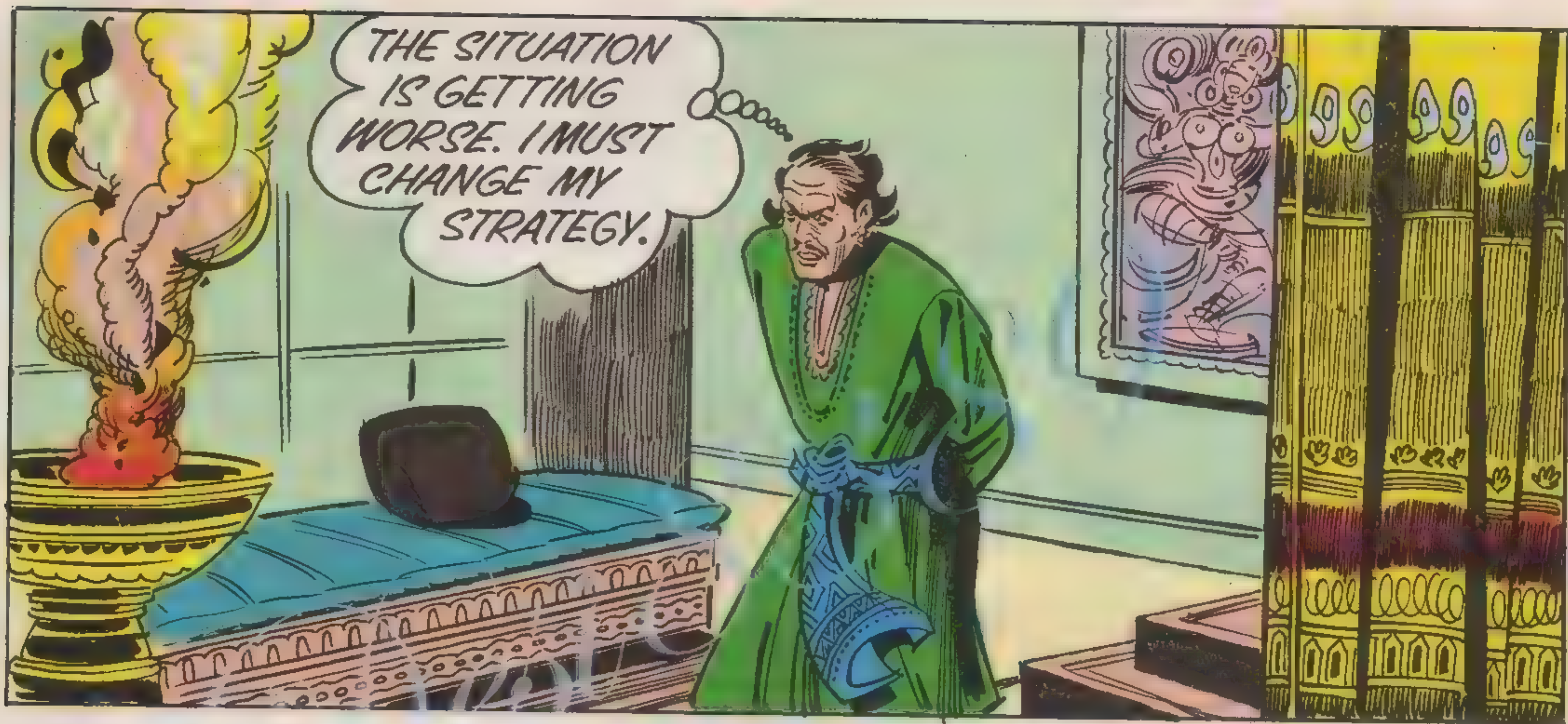
HE SAW MANY ANTS COMING OUT OF A CRACK IN THE FLOOR, CARRYING GRAINS OF RICE.



IN THE RAGING FIRE, ALL THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.







LATER CHANAKYA
EXPLAINED TO
CHANDRAGUPTA.

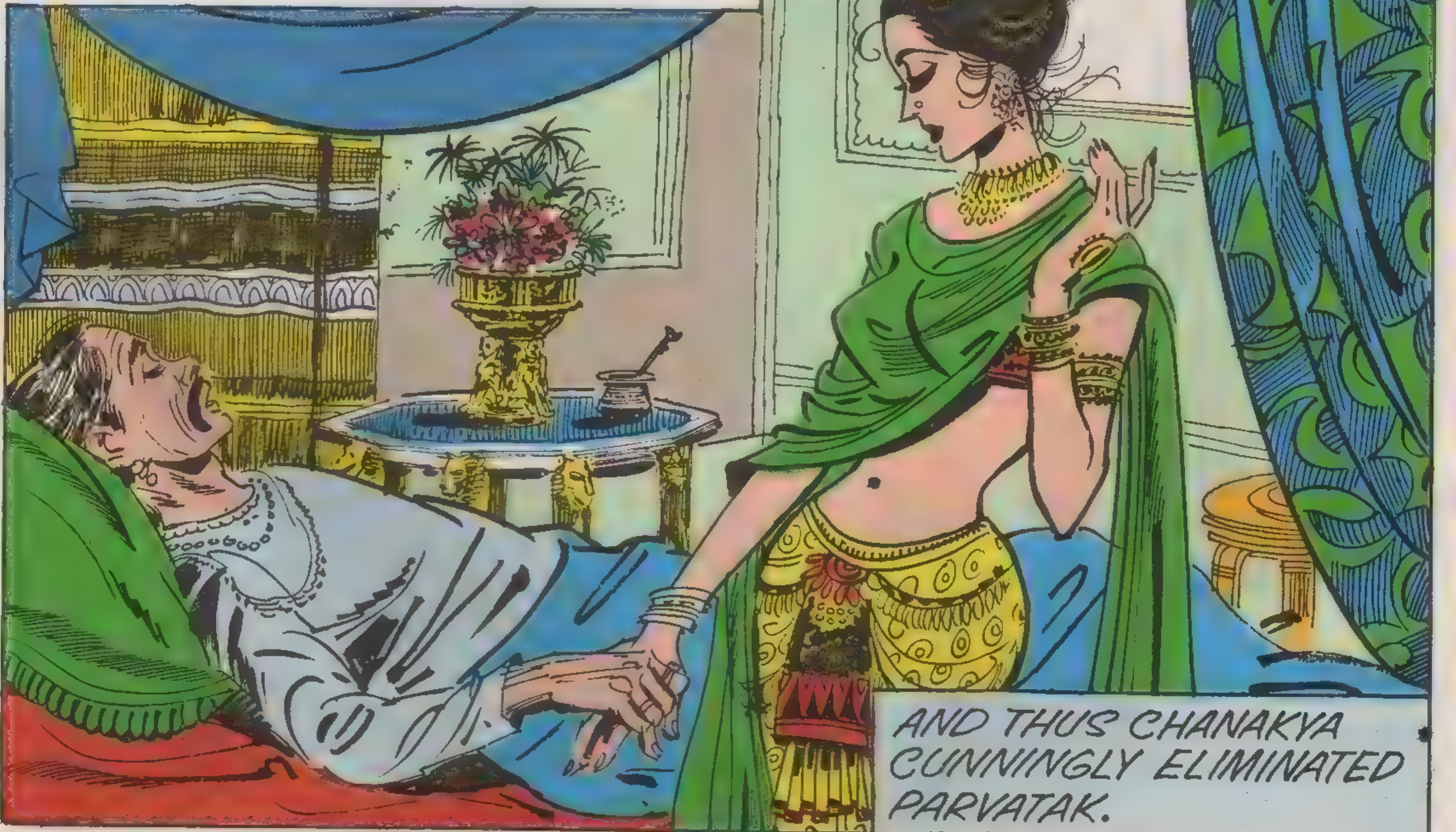
THAT DANCER
WAS A VISHA-
KANYA*. SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN SENT
BY RAKSHAS
TO KILL YOU.



*VISHA-KANYA OR POISON-GIRL —IN
ANCIENT INDIA, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS
WERE BROUGHT UP ON A SPECIAL DIET
OF MEDICINE AND POISON. IF A
PERSON TOUCHED A VISHA-KANYA,
HE WOULD DIE IMMEDIATELY.

THEN
WHY DID YOU SEND
HER TO OUR FRIEND
PARVATAK?

KING PARVATAK IS
NO LONGER LOYAL
TO US. HE HAS
JOINED
HANDS
WITH RAKSHAS.

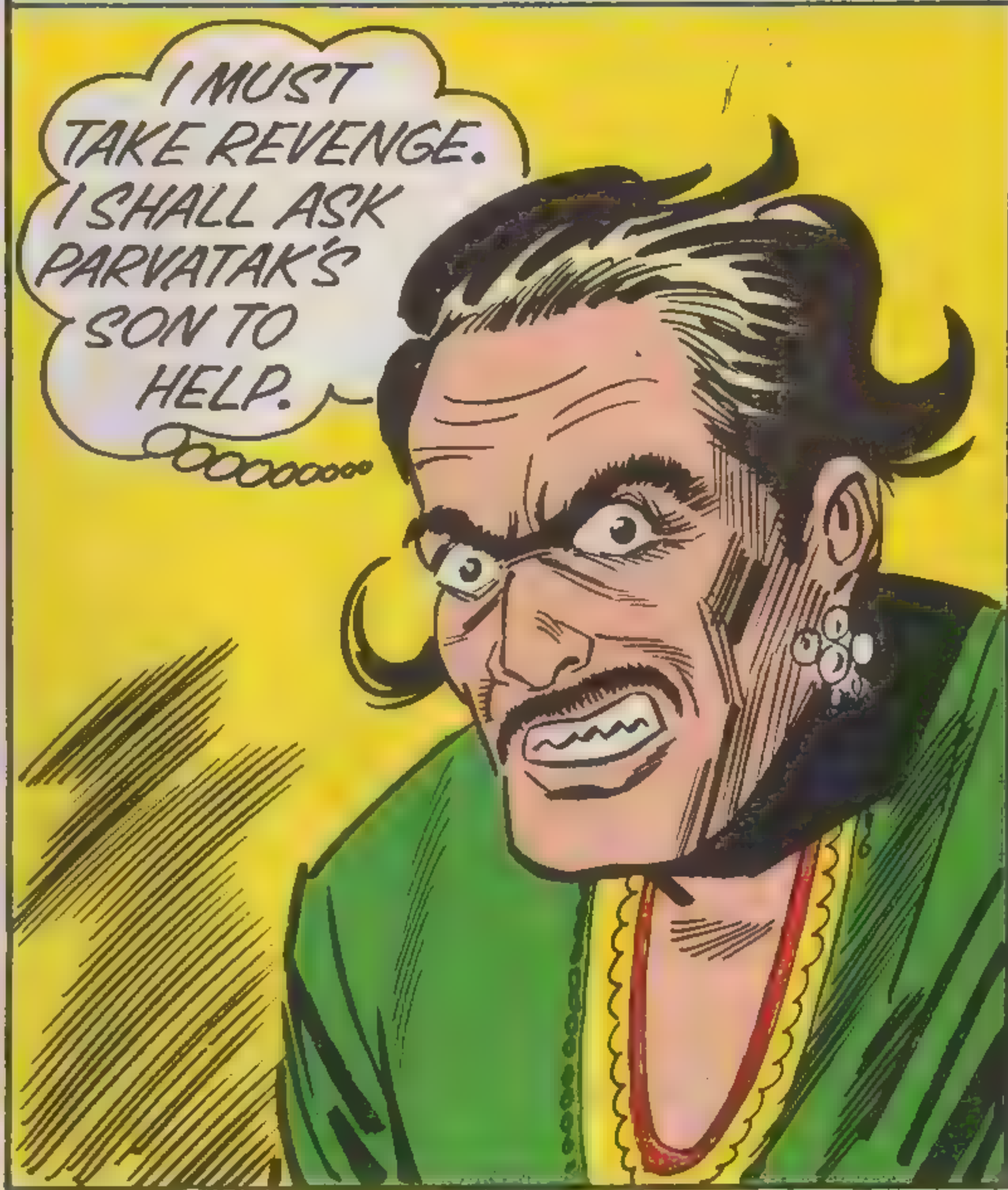


AND THUS CHANAKYA
CUNNINGLY ELIMINATED
PARVATAK.

RAKSHAS WAS VERY UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF PARVATAK.



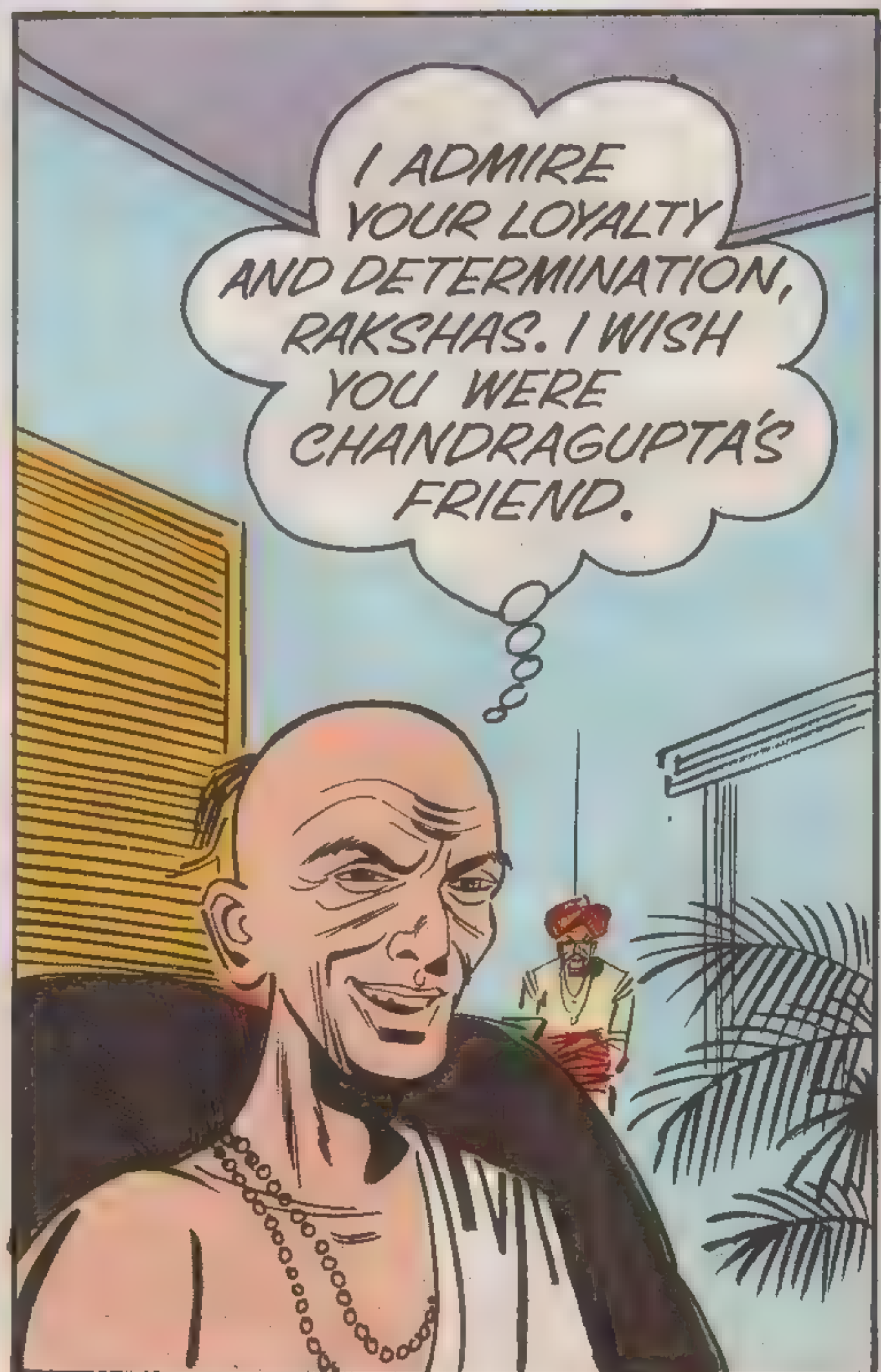
BUT RAKSHAS WAS NOT A MAN TO GIVE UP EASILY.

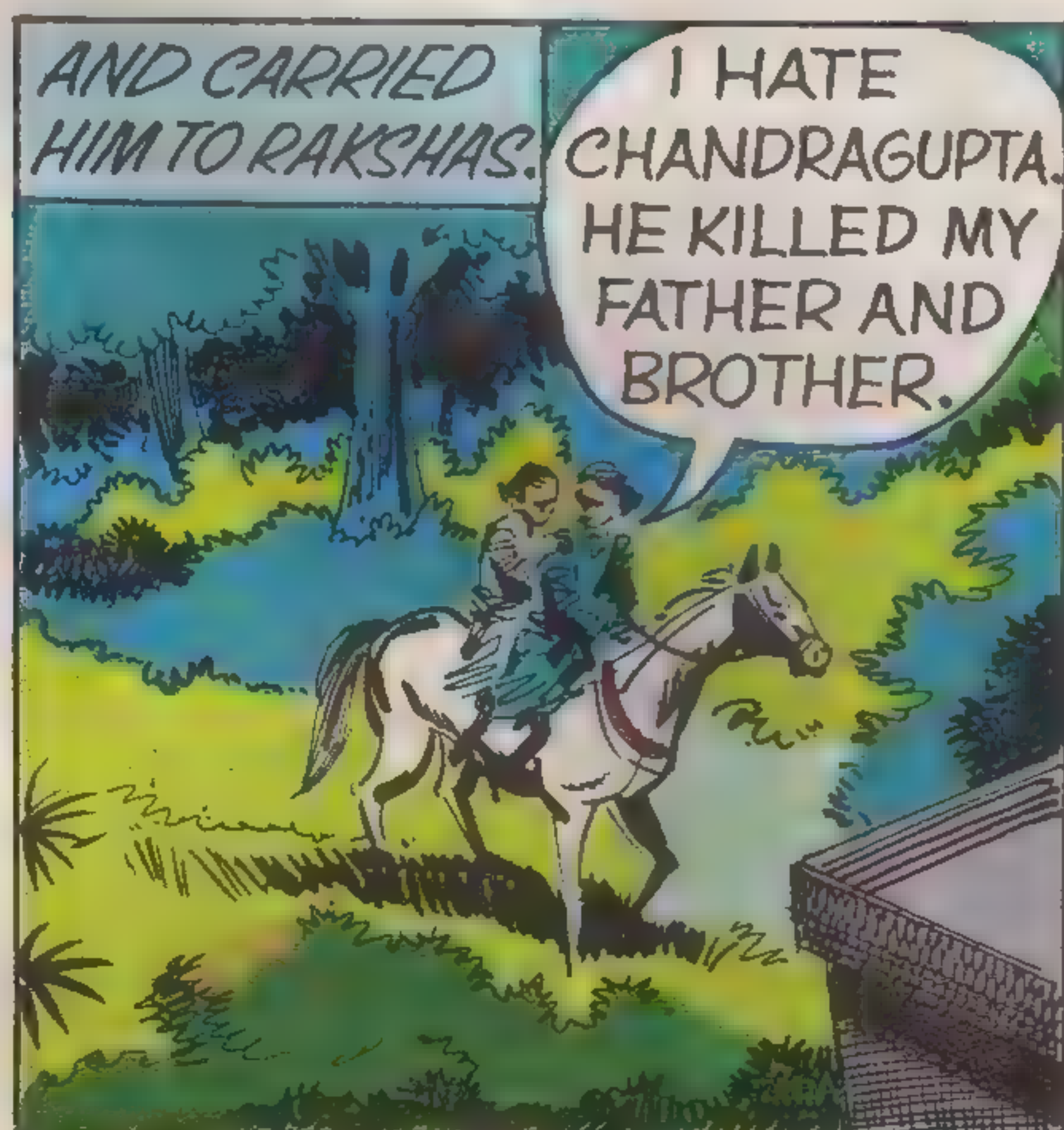
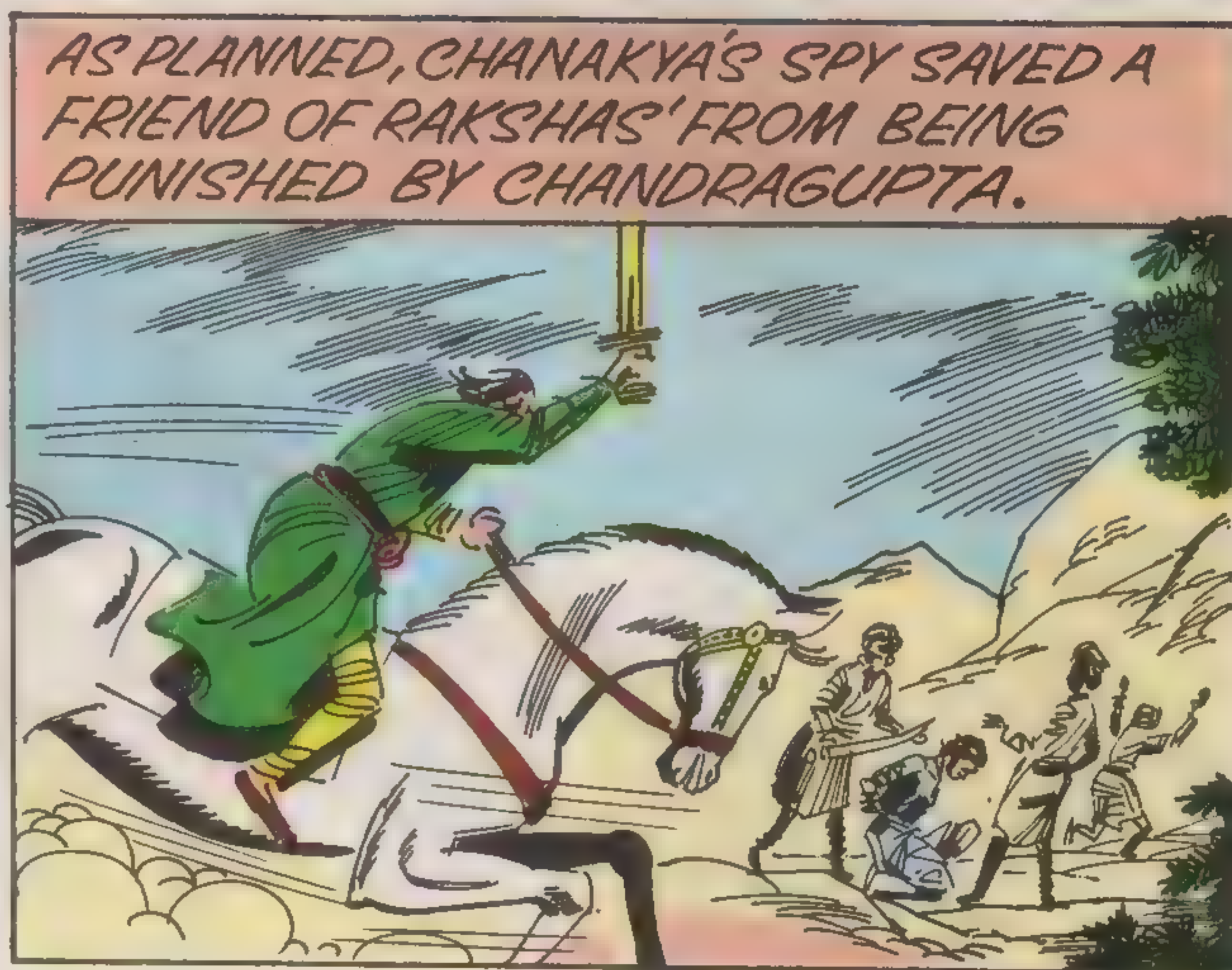
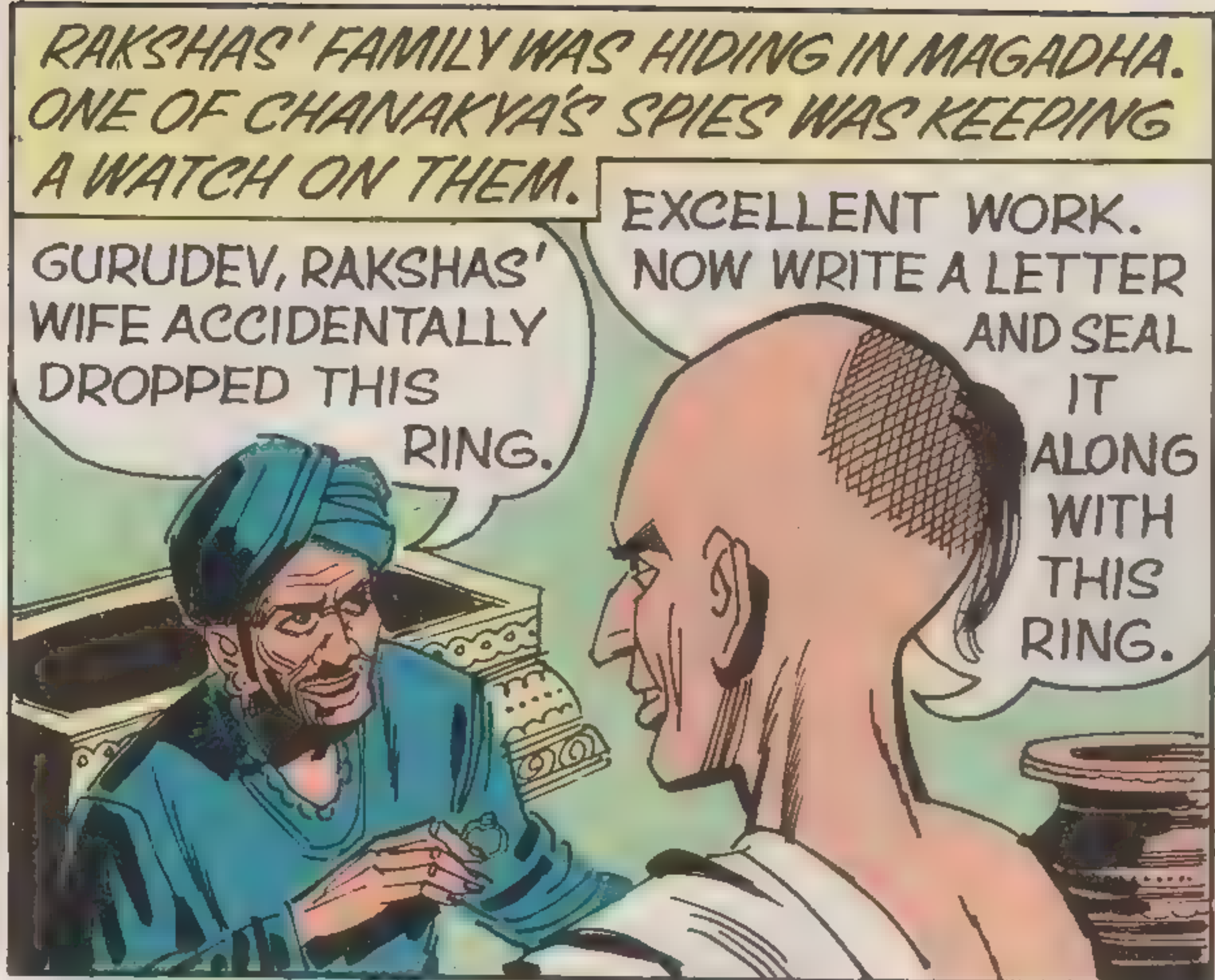


RAKSHAS HAS PERSUADED PARVATAK'S SON, MALAYAKETU, AND FIVE OTHER KINGS TO ATTACK MAGADHA.

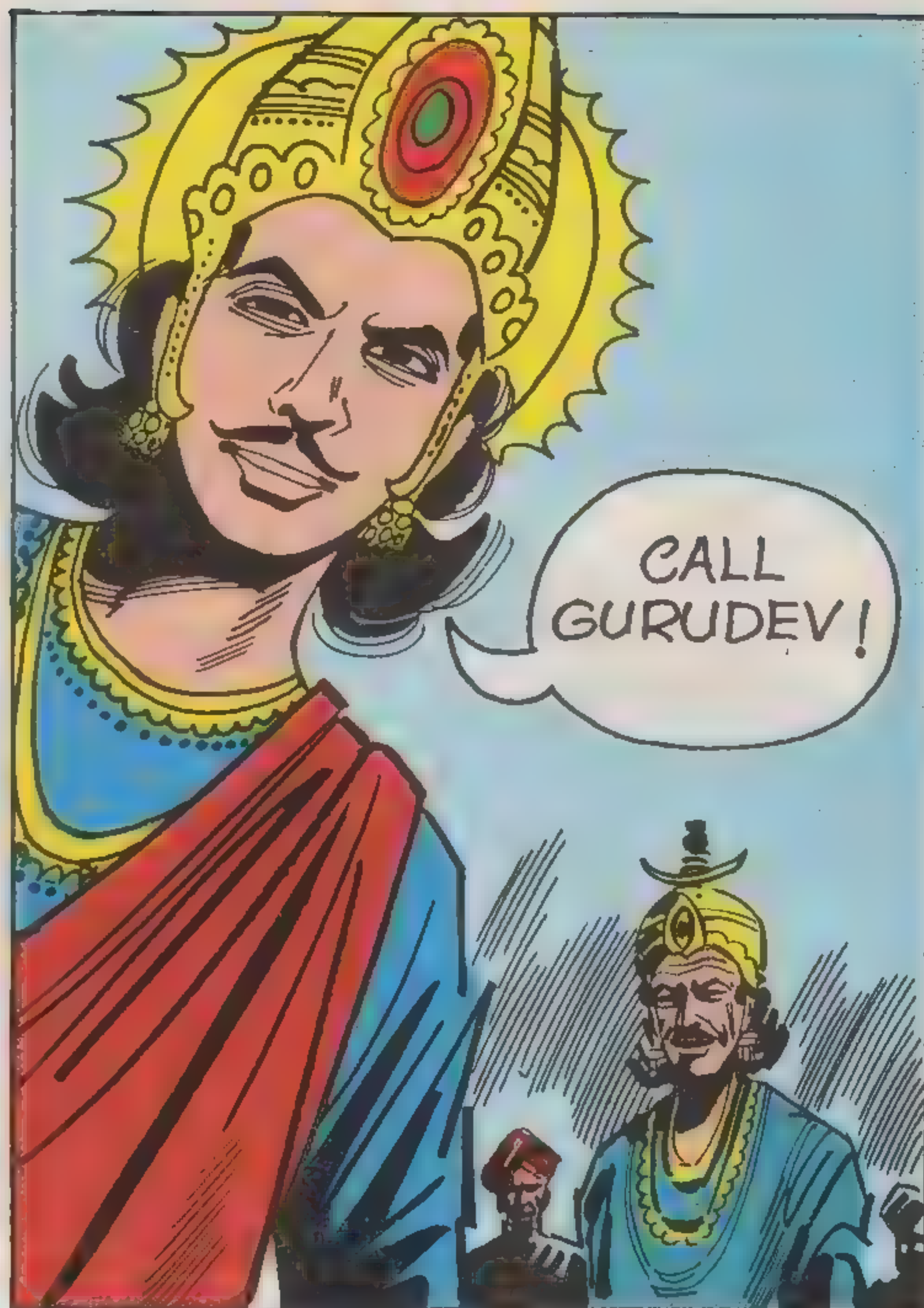


I ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY AND DETERMINATION, RAKSHAS. I WISH YOU WERE CHANDRAGUPTA'S FRIEND.





MEANWHILE CHANDRAGUPTA HAD DECLARED THAT HIS VICTORY SHOULD BE CELEBRATED.



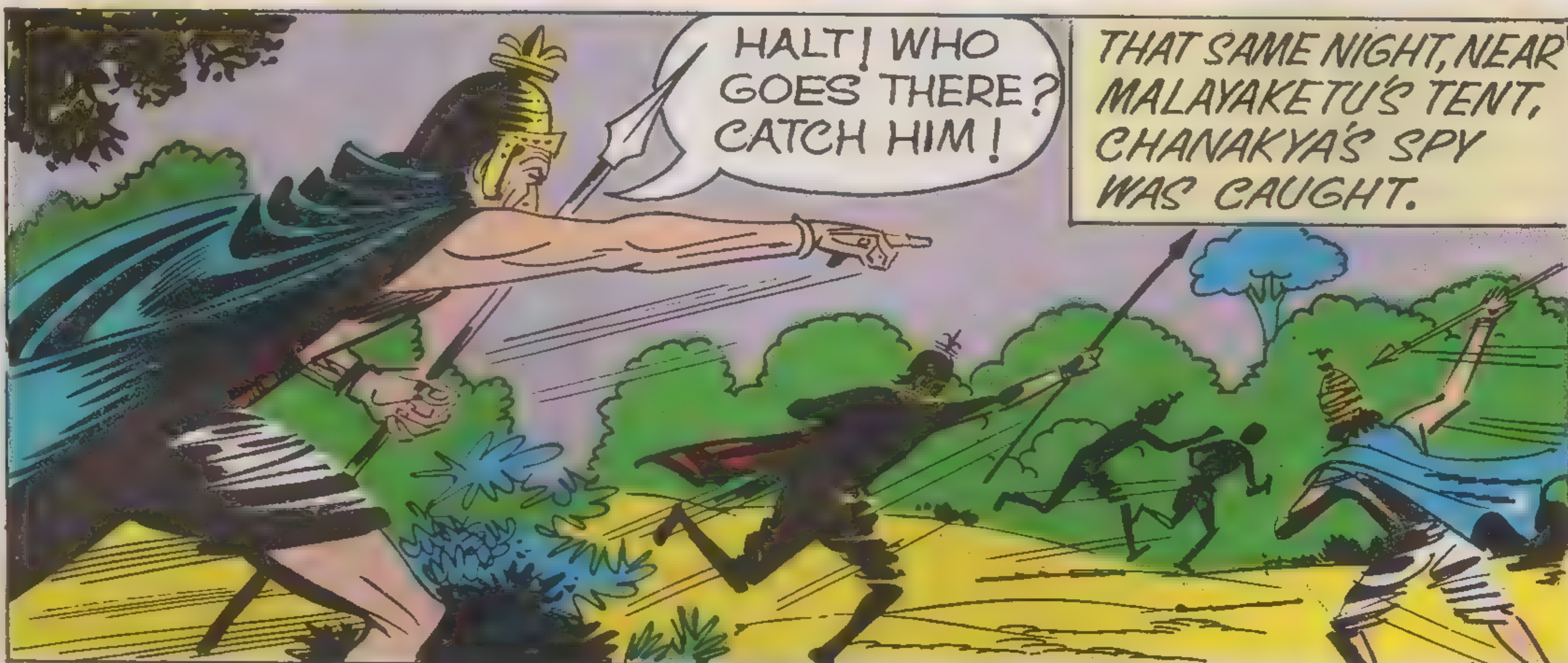
THE ENEMY ALSO CAME TO KNOW OF THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN CHANDRA-GUPTA AND CHANAKYA.

WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION, KING MALAYAKETU.

YES, WE MUST.



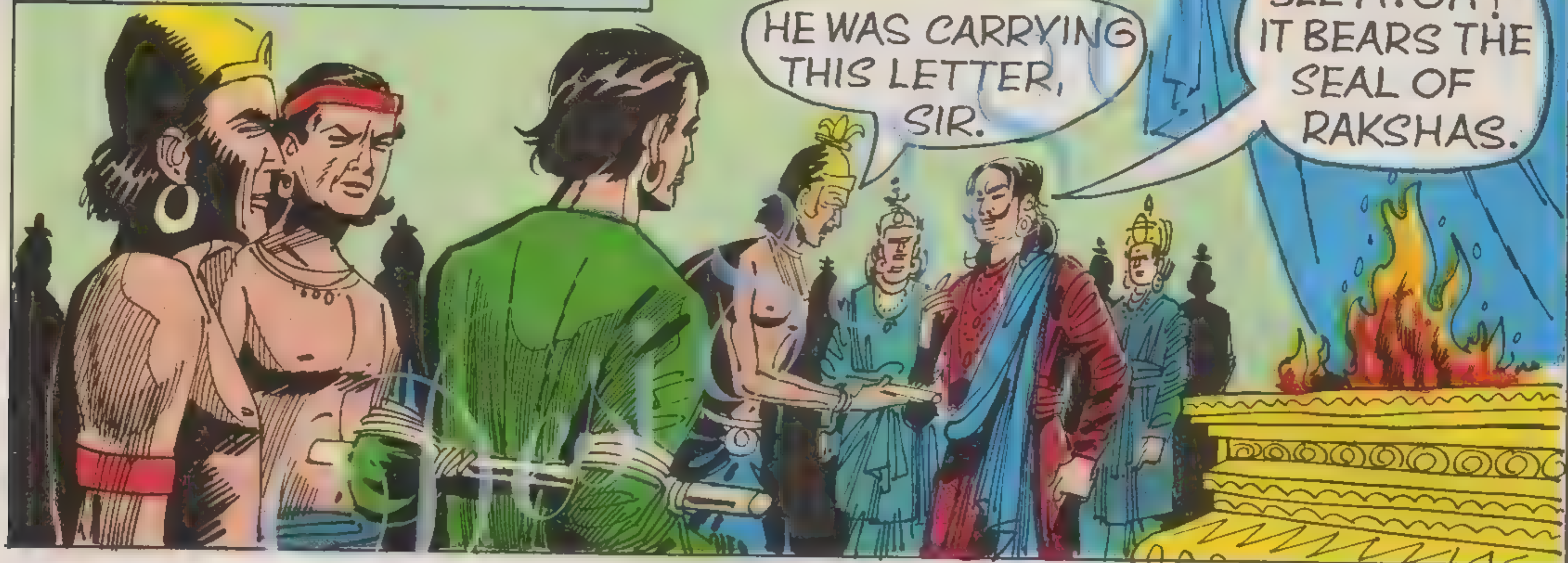
LET US GET READY, I'LL GO AND PREPARE THE PLAN FOR BATTLE.



HALT! WHO GOES THERE? CATCH HIM!

THAT SAME NIGHT, NEAR MALAYAKETU'S TENT, CHANAKYA'S SPY WAS CAUGHT.

THE SPY ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CAUGHT AS PLANNED BY CHANAKYA. HE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE KING MALAYAKETU.



HE WAS CARRYING THIS LETTER, SIR.

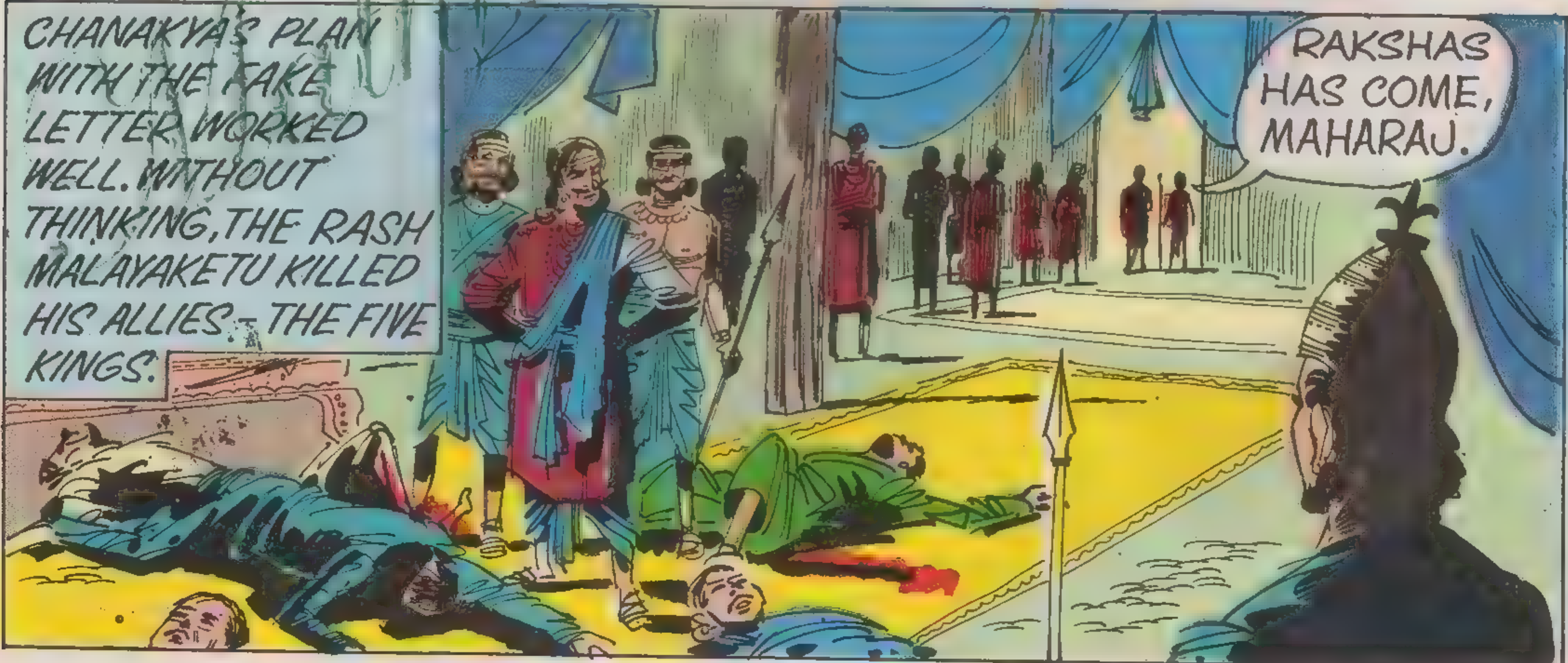
LET ME SEE IT. OH! IT BEARS THE SEAL OF RAKSHAS.

Dear Chandragupta,
I am happy that you have removed Chanakya. I will now accept your offer to be your Chief Minister. I will help you to win the battle against Malayaketu. The five kings will betray him. For this you will have to kill Malayaketu and divide his kingdom amongst them.
Rakshas

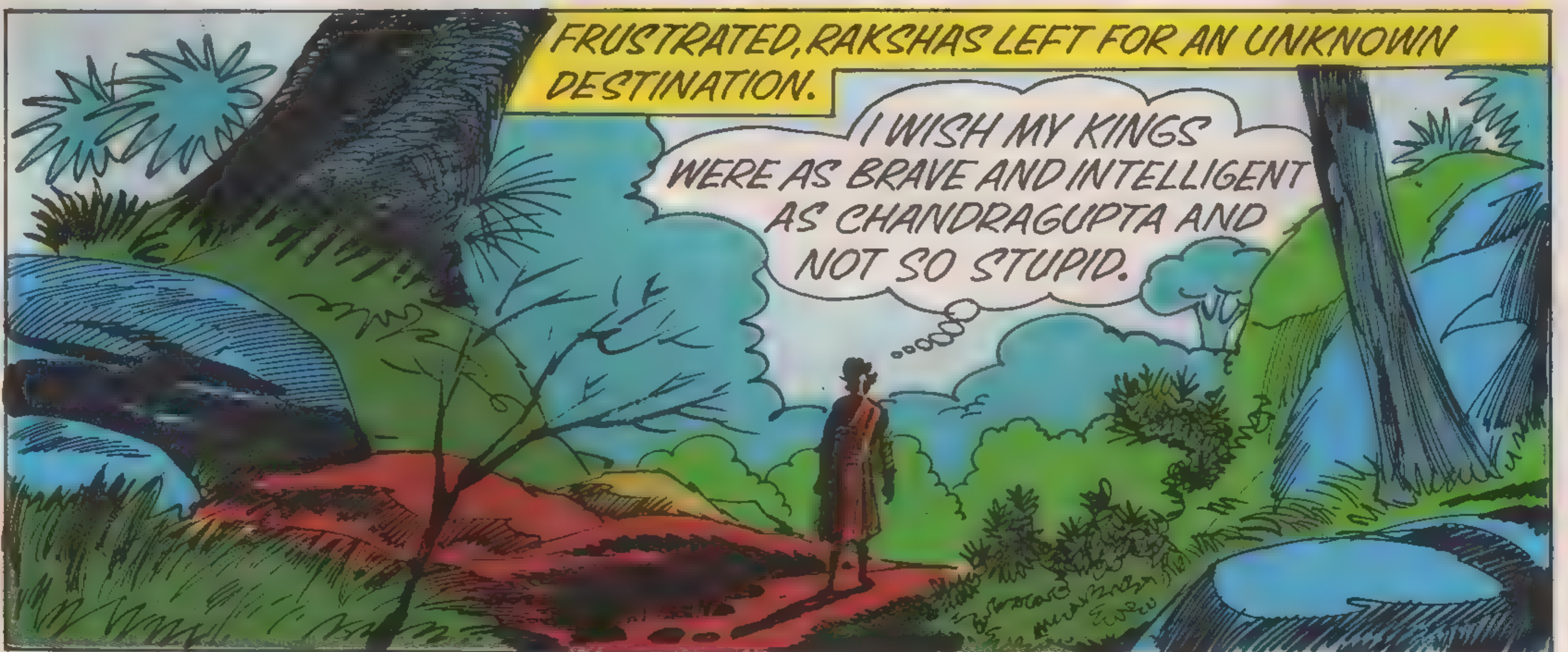
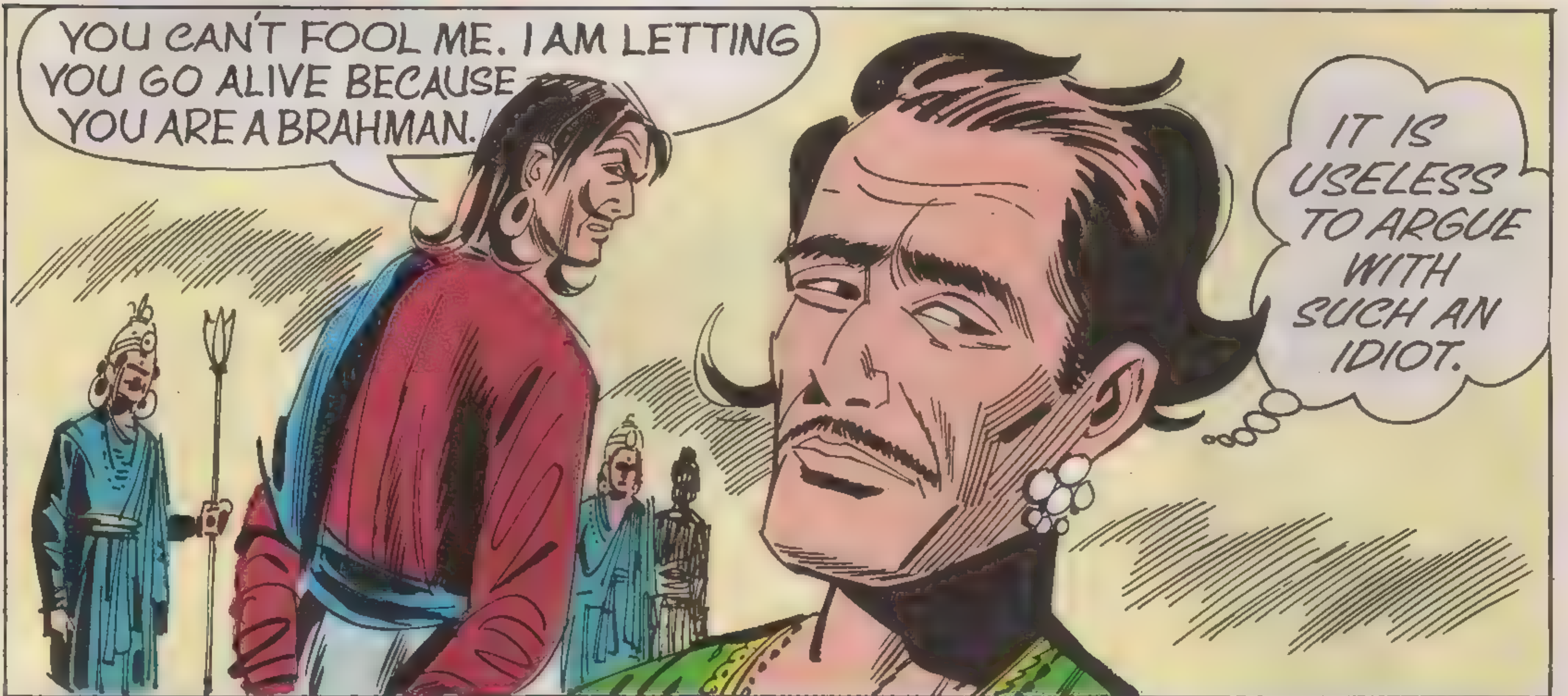
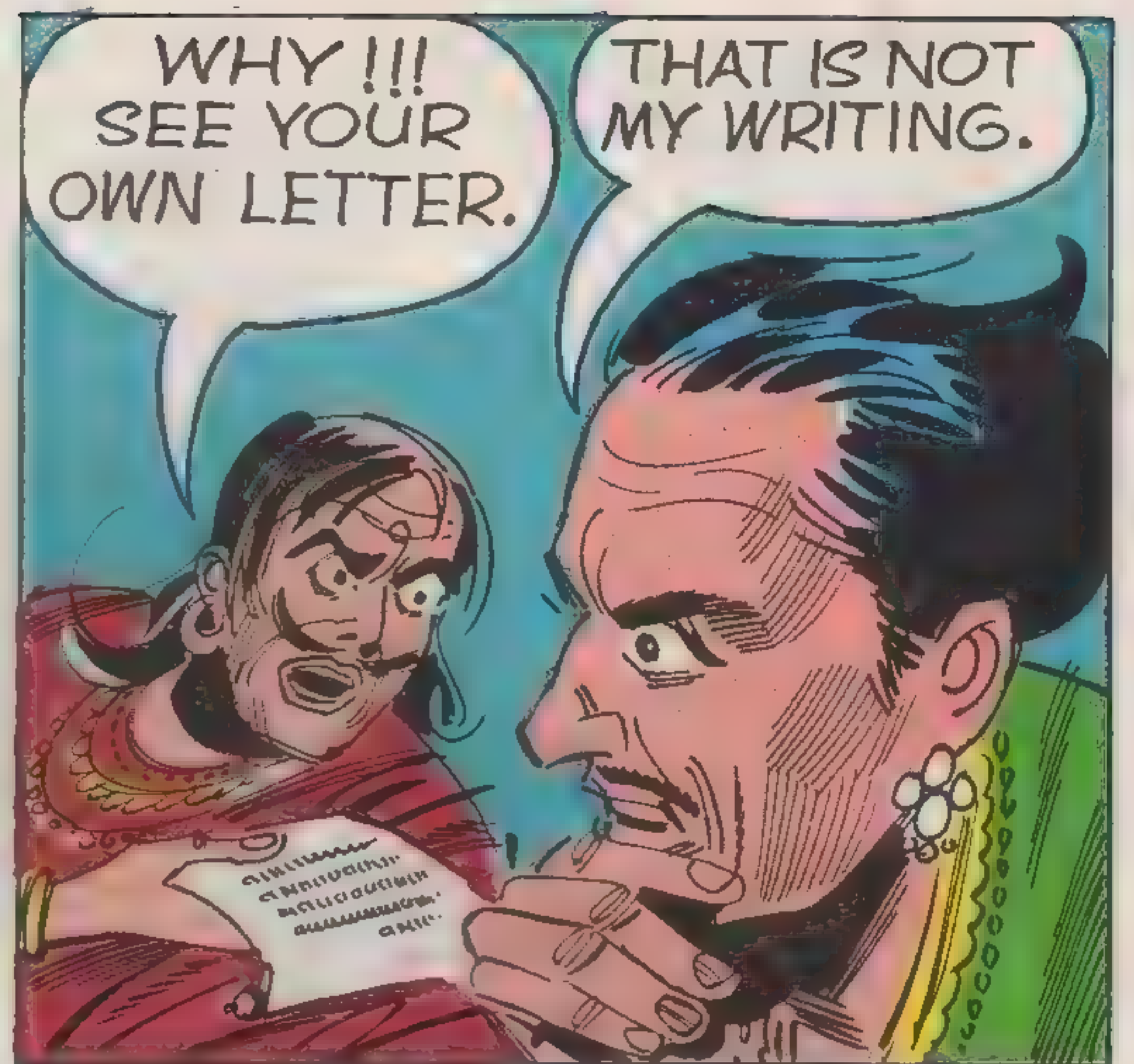
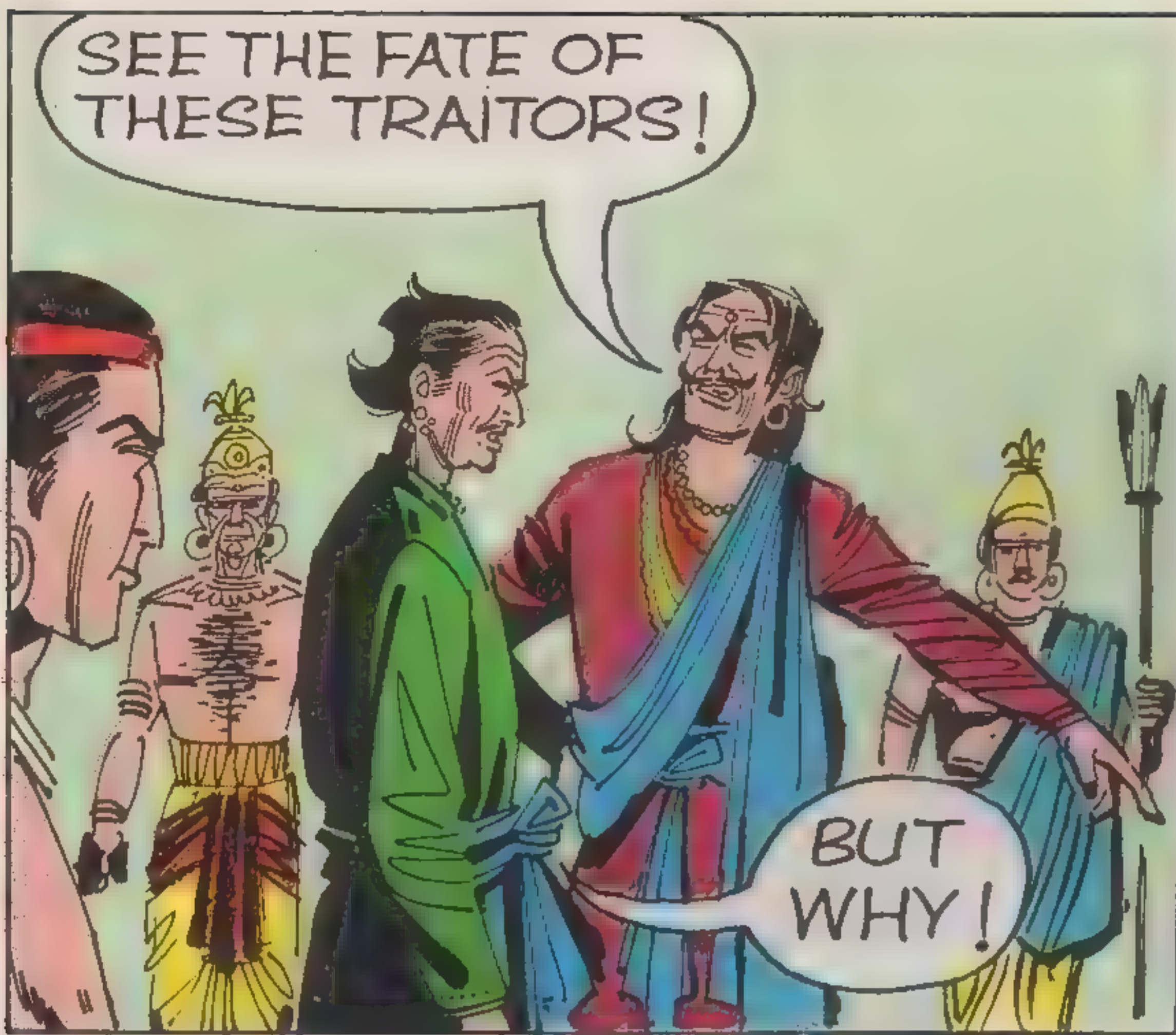


TRAITORS!
SO THEY WANT MY KINGDOM!
GUARDS!

CHANAKYA'S PLAN WITH THE FAKE LETTER WORKED WELL. WITHOUT THINKING, THE RASH MALAYAKETU KILLED HIS ALLIES - THE FIVE KINGS.



RAKSHAS HAS COME, MAHARAJ.

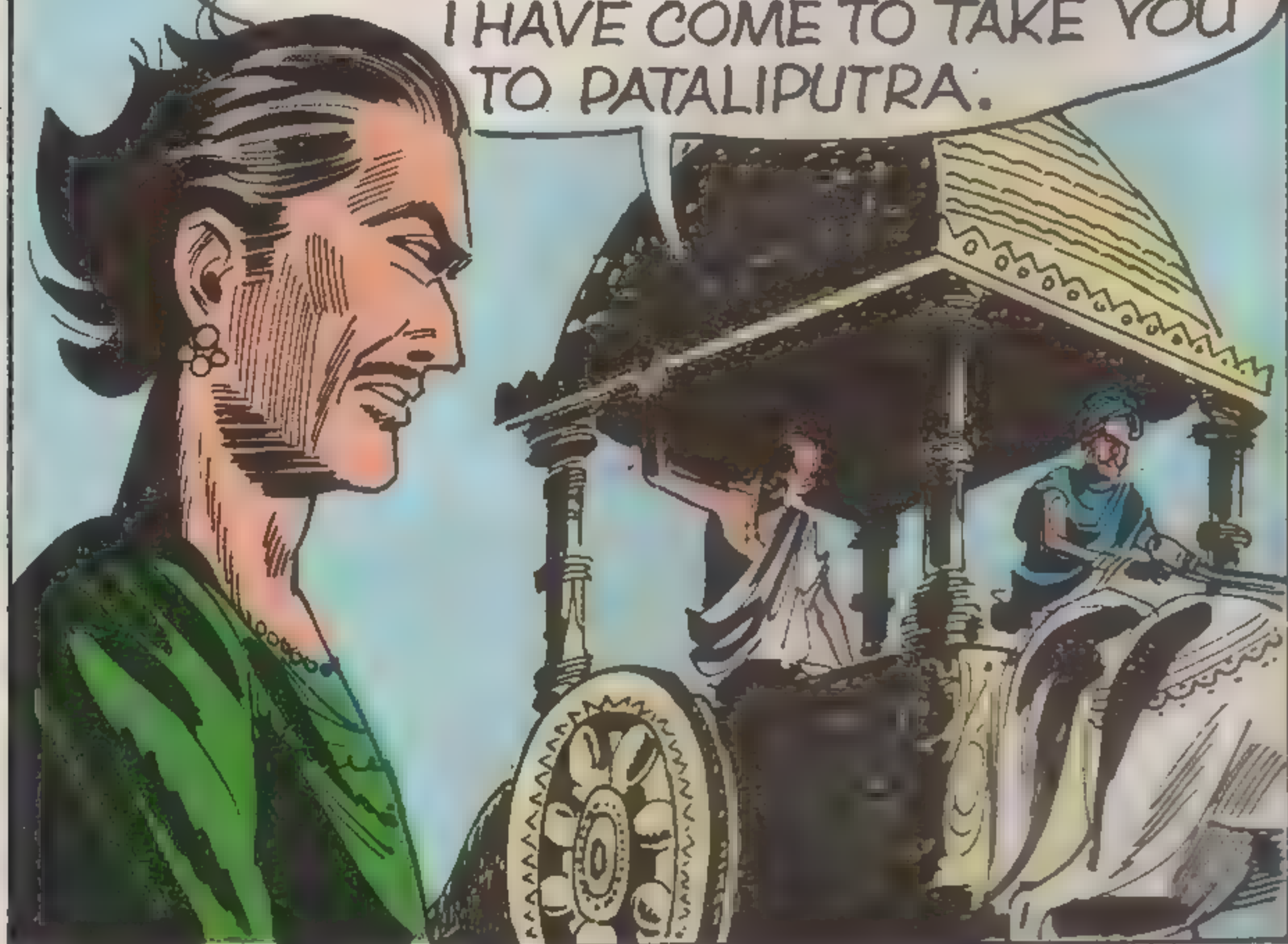


IN THE JUNGLE, RAKSHAS SAW A CHARIOT COMING TOWARDS HIM.

WHO CAN THIS BE?



SALUTATIONS TO MINISTER RAKSHAS. I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU TO PATALIPUTRA.

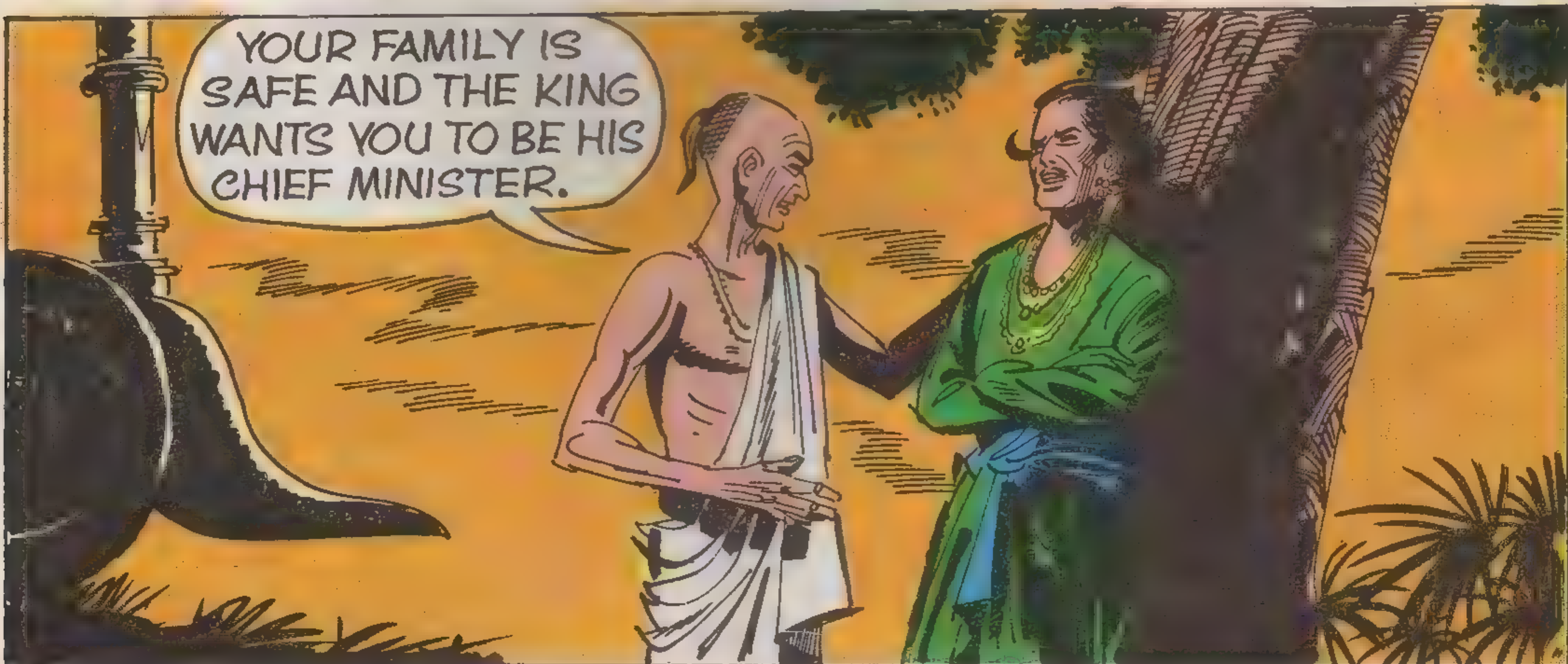


WHY? I HAVE NOTHING LEFT THERE NOW.

YOUR FAMILY AND CHANDRAGUPTA ARE WAITING FOR YOU.



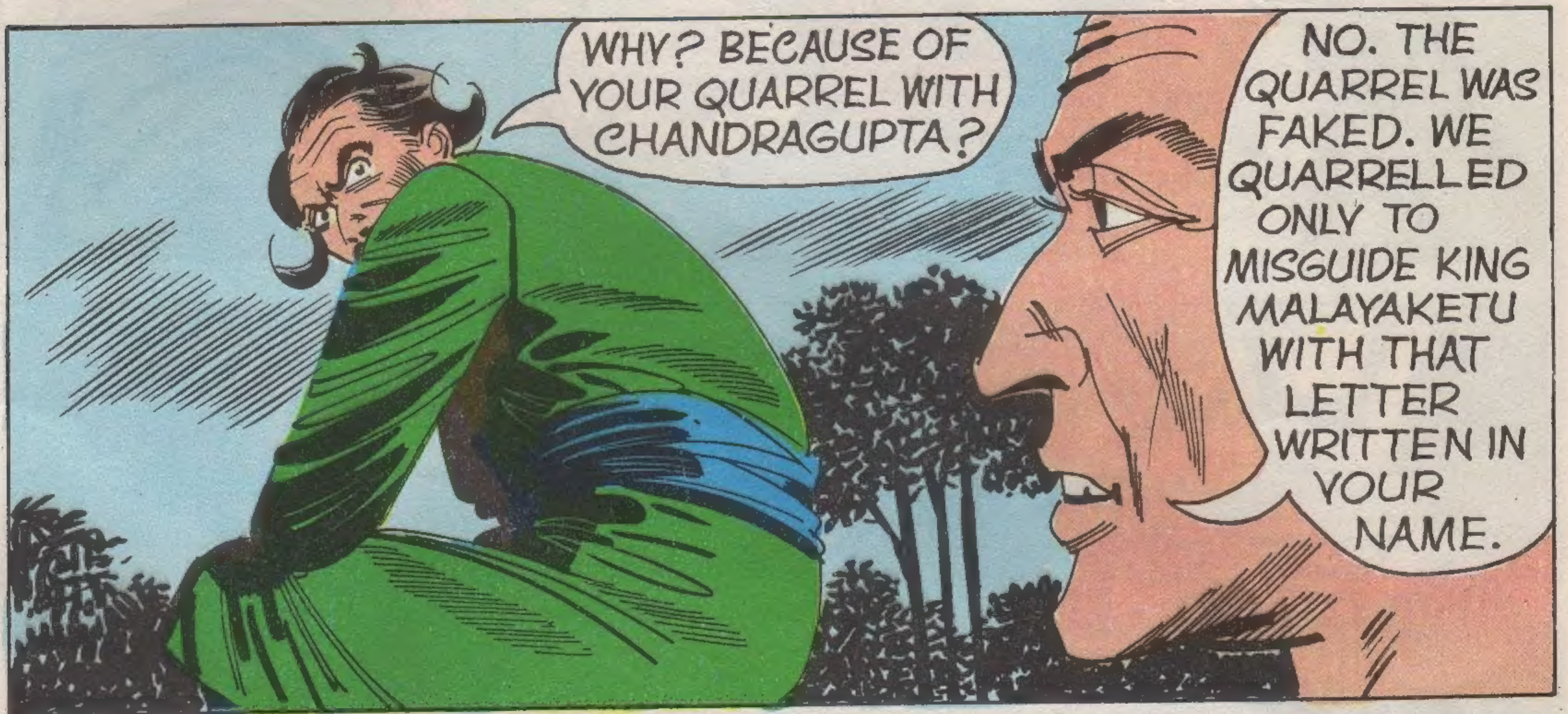
YOUR FAMILY IS SAFE AND THE KING WANTS YOU TO BE HIS CHIEF MINISTER.





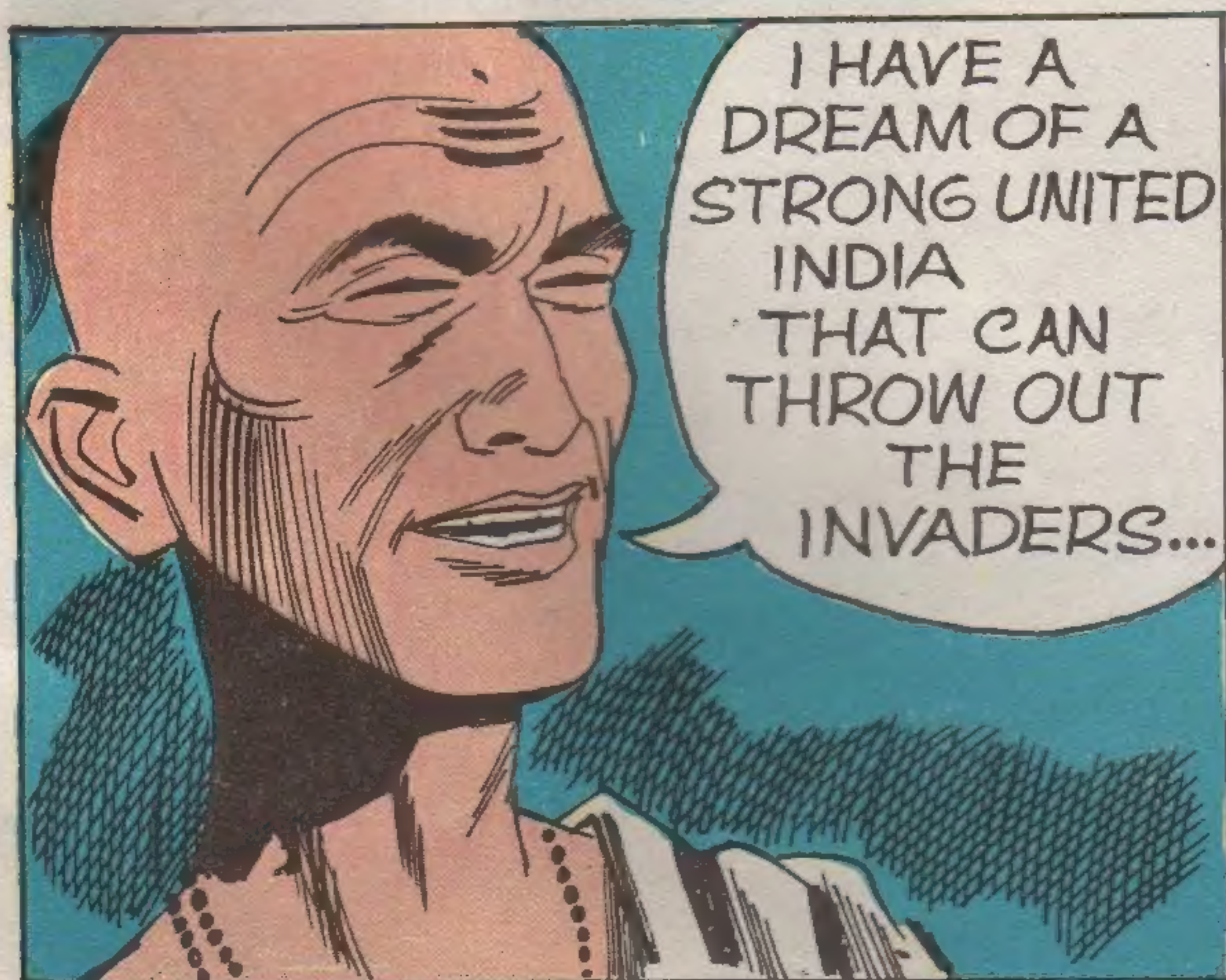
MY KING IS DEAD.
AND I DON'T WANT
TO TAKE YOUR
PLACE.

BUT YOUR
COUNTRY IS
ALIVE AND I
CAN'T BE A
MINISTER.



WHY? BECAUSE OF
YOUR QUARREL WITH
CHANDRAGUPTA?

NO. THE
QUARREL WAS
FAKED. WE
QUARRELLED
ONLY TO
MISGUIDE KING
MALAYAKETU
WITH THAT
LETTER
WRITTEN IN
YOUR
NAME.



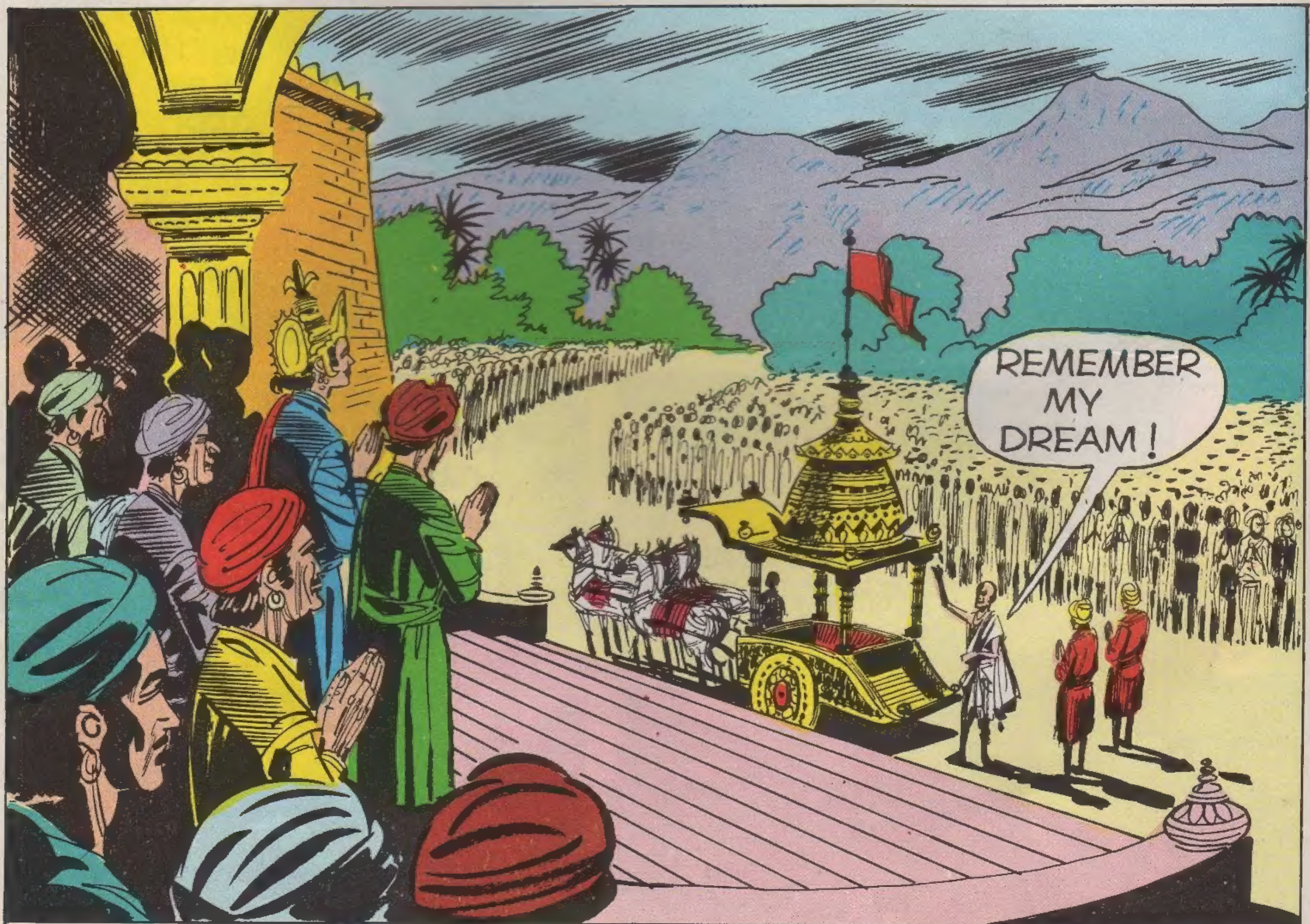
I HAVE A
DREAM OF A
STRONG UNITED
INDIA
THAT CAN
THROW OUT
THE
INVADERS...



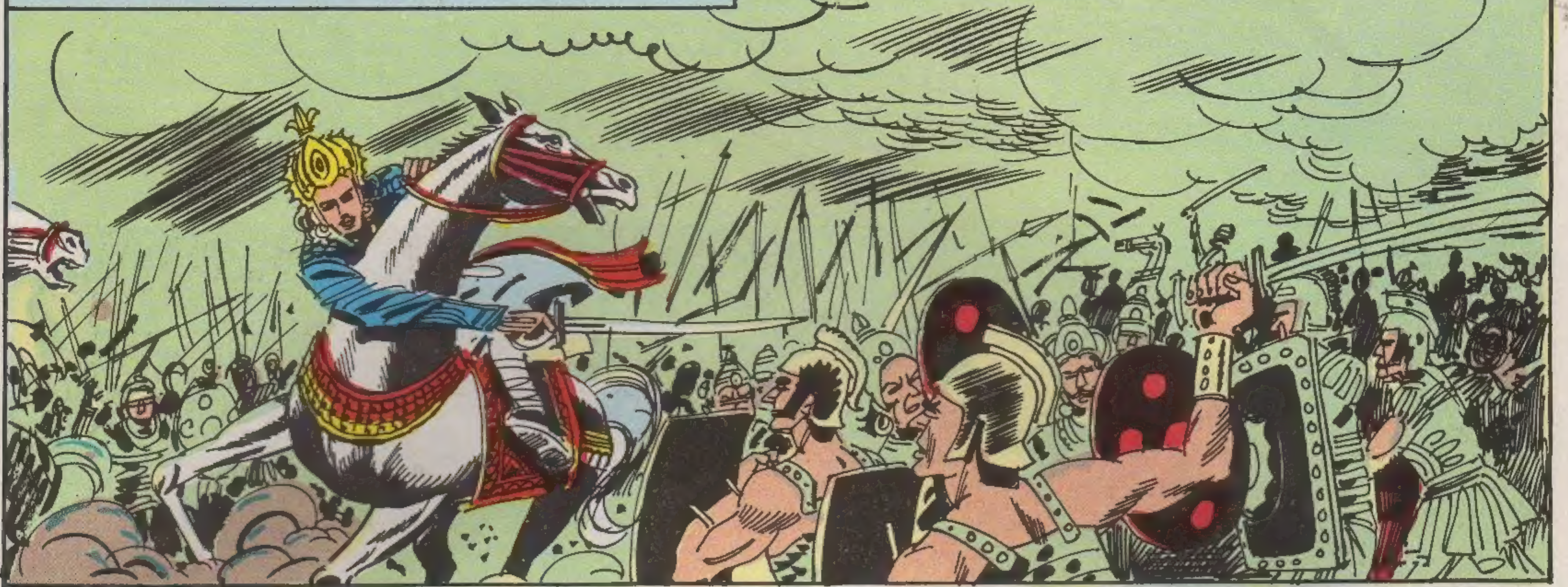
WITH YOUR HELP,
CHANDRAGUPTA
CAN MAKE IT A
REALITY. PLEASE
BECOME HIS
CHIEF MINISTER.

AS YOU
WISH,
CHANAKYA.

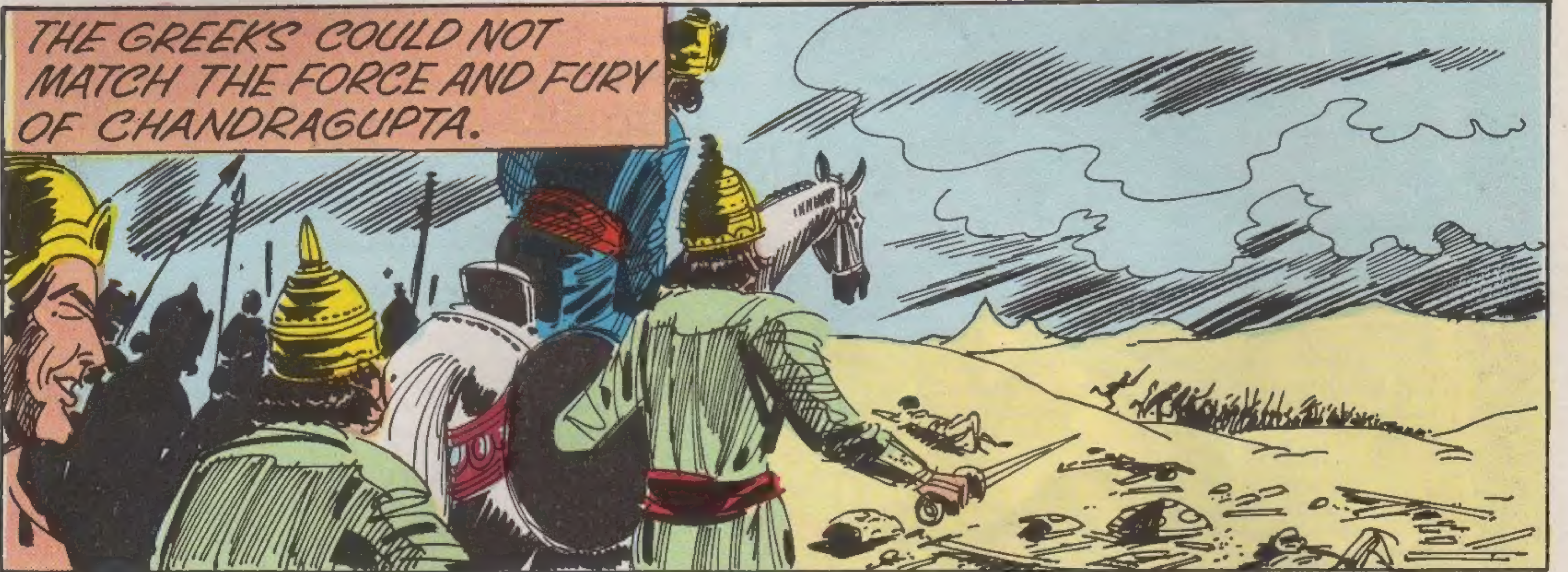
AFTER RAKSHAS BECAME CHANDRAGUPTA'S CHIEF MINISTER, CHANAKYA DECIDED TO LEAVE.



AFTER BUILDING A STRONGER EMPIRE, CHANDRAGUPTA DECLARED WAR ON THE GREEK INVADERS.



THE GREEKS COULD NOT MATCH THE FORCE AND FURY OF CHANDRAGUPTA.



CHANDRAGUPTA DEFEATED THE GREEKS AND MARRIED THE DAUGHTER OF THEIR LEADER, SELEUCUS.



CHANAKYA LEFT ACTIVE POLITICS AND WENT BACK TO HIS ASHRAM TO TEACH. HE WROTE THE BOOK CALLED "KAUTILYA ARTHASHASTRA" WHICH EVEN TODAY IS CONSIDERED AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLASSIC.

